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OFFICIAL SAYS PLO NOT AFFECTED BY CEASE-FIRE

JN2208362 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 March--It has been reported here that the exchange of fire eased a few hours after the enemy announced a cease-fire. However, operations behind the enemy lines are continuing. The Palestinian resistance command has not yet announced its official stand toward the cease-fire. It seems that no stand will be announced because the resistance does not consider itself affected by a resolution that is not addressed to it.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, said last night: There is nothing in our dictionary about a cease-fire with the enemy, who occupies Palestinian and Arab territory. He said that if the enemy's concept of a cease-fire is to act to implement the Security Council resolution to enable him to achieve the aims or the aggression, this resolution does not affect the Palestinian resistance at all.

'Abd Rabbuh pointed out that the resistance is not concerned about the issue of the emergency force or any other aspects of the Security Council resolution. He said: The world community must turn its resolutions into a tool to end the aggression and not a means to implement the aims of the aggressors against the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese people.

PFLP DENOUNCES UN RESOLUTION ON LEBANON

JN2011522 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 March--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has condemned the UN Security Council resolution on stationing UN troops in southern Lebanon. In a statement to the INA Beirut correspondent, the PFLP spokesman said that the resolution is part of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plot against the Palestinian revolution and the entire Palestinian cause.

The spokesman added that the resolution is basically aimed at erecting a barrier in front of the Palestinian fighters to prevent them from waging their struggle against the enemy inside the occupied territories. He said it is also aimed at dragging the Palestinians and the revolution into a predicament that will expose them to the pressure of a new Arab policy. This policy would also push them to the trench of settlement which U.S. imperialism is trying to push the Arab regimes toward.

The official spokesman added: We know from our experience that UN Security Council resolutions are merely ink on paper so long as the superpowers keep them so. He said that the Zionist enemy, who has been flouting the Security Council resolutions since 1948, realizes this truth and so does the United States. The PFLP spokesman added that fighting is the only way to exhaust the enemy, modify the balances of power, liquidate the Zionist entity and liberate Palestine.

The Palestinian official praised the valor of the joint forces fighters. He urged the Palestinian masses to [words indistinct]. He emphasized that the PFLP will continue to fight the Zionist enemy. He also asserted that the PFLP rejects any barrier that U.S. imperialism and Zionism are trying to erect in front of the fighters so as to restrict their freedom of action. He added that the UN Security Council resolution is only a rewaard to the invaders for occupying Lebanese territory.

PFLP SPOKESMAN WELCOMES IRAQI AID TO PALESTINIANS

JN211503Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 March--Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the PFLP Political Bureau, has welcomed the aid which the Palestinian revolution has received from Iraq. He said that the arrival of the first part of Iraqi support for the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian revolution will strengthen the heroic fighters who are determined to continue the fighting and turn it into a protracted popular war to exhaust the Zionist enemy. He also said: We have consistently known Iraq as a strong support for our people, our struggle and our firm principled stand. Concluding his statement, Abu Sharif said: Let the convoys continue and let the popular war be given an Arab dimension against the Zionist enemy. The joint forces constitute the revolutionary vanguard of the Arab forces.

HABASH SENDS URGENT LETTER TO BOUMEDIENE ON LEBANON

JN211307Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 March--It was learned here today that Dr George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, has sent an urgent letter to Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The letter was handed to Mohamed Yazid, Algerian ambassador to Lebanon, who met with Dr Habash today and reviewed the developments of the situation in southern Lebanon.

PFLP URGES ARABS TO SUPPORT JOINT FORCES IN LEBANON

JN191507Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 19 March--The PFLP has called upon the Arab regimes to support the joint forces, who are confronting the largest attack that has even been launched by the enemy forces on an Arab land with indescribable valor.

The PFLP official spokesman said that the enemy troops have reached 37,000 soldiers supported by tanks, vehicles, air force, gunboats, long-range artillery and heavy rockets. He added that the joint forces, despite the wide-scale attack, have managed to inflict grave losses on the enemy. They have also managed to strike at the enemy inside occupied Palestine.

The spokesman said that Arab regimes are still silent about the 5-day heroic fighting of the joint forces. He added that despite their limited weapons these forces have so far shot down five Phantom and Skyhawk planes, while the effective arms and missiles are inactive in the Arab regimes' depots.

The Palestinian spokesman called upon the Arab masses to confront the regimes which have so far declined to support the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement and have held off arms and funds. He said that there are homeless evacuees without food or medicine. The spokesman asks: Where are the oil funds?

In conclusion, thespokesman said: We will continue to fight despite the Zionist invasion. We, however, warn that we know how to deal with the regimes which are piling up funds and are not supporting the Lebanese and Palestinian masses.

BAGHDAD VOP: DEMONSTRATIONS STAGED IN JORDAN

JN191946Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brothers: We have received the following from our special sources in Amman: A mammoth popular demonstration was staged this morning in Az-Zarqa' in solidarity with the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement. Our sources said that the demonstration broke out at 0800 today when the students of our Jordanian and Palestinian masses refused to go to their schools, gathered in the main street and shouted slogans: long live the Palestinian revolution, long live the Lebanese nationalist movement and long live their superb steadfastness in the face of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon.

The demonstrator denounced the Arab official silence and called upon the Arab masses to move rapidly to support the joint forces in their fighting against the Zionist invasion. Our sources added that a large number of the royal Jordanian troops rushed to the scene and quelled the demonstration and dispersed the demonstrator by means of force.

PLO REPRESENTATIVE BLAMES U.S. FOR ISRAELI ATTACK

JN181009Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0940 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 18 March--'Ali Yasin, the PLO representative in Cairo, has held the United States responsible for the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon. In a statement released here today, Yasin called on the Arab countries to take practical measures against the United States and its vital interests in the area to force it to give up its hostile attitude of backing the Israeli aggressions.

He said the Arab states must rise to the level of their historic national responsibility to face the Zionist enemy, who only understands force. Yasin said it is absolutely inconceivable that the Palestinian revolution is continuing alone for the fourth day running, facing an enemy whose military strength and political aims are known to all.

ARAB POPULAR CONFERENCE CALLS FOR SUMMIT MEETING

LD161030Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--The permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference has sent the following cable to the heads of the states of the summit of steadfastness, following the emergency meeting it held in Tripoli last night:

To the esteemed brother heads of the summit of steadfastness and confrontation: The large-scale assault which the enemy's regular military forces are launching all along the southern Lebanese borders and on the peaceful villages and towns and on the Palestinian camps with all kinds of weapons, reaffirms the expansionist, criminal nature of the Zionist enemy. Moreover, it constitutes a challenge to the entire Arab nation and a test of the effectiveness of steadfastness and confrontation. At its emergency meeting today in Tripoli, the permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference calls on you to implement the resolutions of both the Tripoli and Algiers conferences and to support the Palestinian resistance and the forces of the Lebanese nationalist movement immediately and with all kinds of support.

Moreover, it urges you as to the need to convene an urgent conference of foreign and defense ministers to study this serious challenge and the means of replying to it and to carry out all political and diplomatic activities with all the states and particularly with the states of the socialist community, led by the Soviet Union, to place their weight in order to repel this barbarous aggression and support the Palestinian Arab people and the Lebanese Arab people in defending their existence and rights.

POPULAR CONFERENCE CALLS FOR ANTI-ISRAEL ACTION

LD1912?9Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Tripoli, 19 March, JANA--The permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference issued a statement at the end of its second extraordinary session. It condemns the criminal aggression which not only is aimed at the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese national movement, but is also the beginning of a new stage of dealing a blow to all revolutionary forces which confront capitulatory settlements and which are unanimous in opposing and condemning As-Sadat's treacherous policy."

In a cable sent to the leaders of the front of confrontation and steadfastness on Wednesday the secretariat urges them to support the Palestinian resistance and the forces of the Lebanese national movement immediately and to convene a conference of the ministers of defense and foreign affairs to study the dangerous challenge and how to respond to it.

It calls on all organizations represented in the secretariat and similar Arab organizations to take the following measures immediately:

"1. Let the masses donate blood and money.

"2. Let the masses volunteer to join the fighting forces in Lebanon.

"3. Take all the necessary measures to continue escalation of the armed confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

"4. Call on their governments to stand by the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement and support them militarly politically and diplomatically."

BUDAPEST PAPER INTERVIEWS QADDUMI ON MIDEAST ISSUES

AU2016?4Y Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 17 Mar 78 p 4 AU

[Text] Following an invitation Faruq Qaddumi, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO political department, paid a brief visit to Hungary. The politician, who is known as "foreign minister" of the PLO, was interviewed by NEPSZABADSAG reporter Sandor Bocz.

[Question] The biggest Palestinian guerrilla organization, Fatah, has made a bold attack on the territory of Israel. What do you think the goal of the action was?

[Answer] I would put the question differently. Why did the Palestinian guerrillas sacrifice their lives voluntarily? They wanted to prove that the Palestinians' fight for their liberty, freedom and return to their own country is going on.

They wanted to prove that the Mideast conflict could not be settled without the Palestinians and to the disadvantage of the Palestinians. They meant the action to be an answer for the plot against our people, an answer to the policy of capitulation of President as-Sadat, to the separate Egyptian-Israeli talks that serve imperialist and reactionary interests. The United Nations has passed a number of resolutions aimed at just settlement of the Mideast conflict. Israel, however, stubbornly disregards these resolutions. Instead of moving out from the illegally occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, it constantly wants to establish new settlements in the West Bank, in the Sinai Peninsula and in the Golan Heights. The Israeli authorities cruelly oppress the population of the occupied territories. We had no choice under such conditions but to carry on the fight. The attack in the vicinity of Tel Aviv reminds one of another one 30 years ago when Israeli terrorists massacred the whole population of a Palestinian village, Dayr Yasin. The mass persecution of Palestinian Arabs started at that time. This infamous terrorist attack was led by the same Menahem Begin who is currently prime minister of Israel.

[Question] How and why do the separate Egyptian-Israeli negotiations jeopardize a just Mideast settlement and the self-determination of the Palestinian people?

[Answer] The so-called peace initiative of the Egyptian president has ruined all the international efforts to reach a just Mideast settlement. As-Sadat handed over all his trump cards to the Israelis without ever getting something in return. He has given Israel de facto recognition. He has ended the state of war with Israel. He has undertaken to normalize Egyptian-Israeli relations. He has disrupted the Arab peoples unity and solidarity. He has made further and further concessions to Israel to the detriment of the Palestinian people. At Begin's request, he did not mention the PLO in his Jerusalem speech. He has agreed to defer Palestinian self-determination. He has disavowed the need for an independent Palestinian state. On top of all this--taking advantage of the tragic Cyprus events he has initiated a slander campaign against us, whose obvious aim is to malign and discredit the PLO, in harmony with the well-known Israeli demands.

[Question] What is your view of the U.S. role?

[Answer] Without a doubt, the implementation of the U.S. Middle East plans is the real objective of the separate Egyptian-Israeli negotiations that have come about through U.S. mediation. The United States is striving to expand and consolidate its power and influence and thus be able to exploit the Arab world and grab the Arab countries' rich oil assets without hindrance. Israel remains the instrument and base of the anti-Arab plans and that is why the U.S. Government supports Israeli aggression by all possible means. It is trying to bring about a new military alliance--as it claims--to defend the Arab Gulf. It is maneuvering to turn the Arab states, as well as the Arab and African countries, against each other. It is trying to drive a wedge between the Arab states and the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. And it does all this with the willing participation of Arab reaction.

[Question] How do you appraise the significance of Arab unity and solidarity in this critical situation?

[Answer] As before, we regard as important the unmasking of As-Sadat's doomed initiative and parrying the harmful consequences of the separate negotiations. To this end, the front of confrontation and steadfastness established by Syria, Algeria, Libya, South Yemen and the PLO must be further strengthened. This front must be strengthened both economically and militarily. Also the rest of the Arab states must be lined up with Syria and the PLO, realizing that they are the backbone of the confrontation front. We can only enter the struggle successfully against the imperialist and reactionary forces if we tighten cooperation even further with all our friends, primarily with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries.

[Question] Characterize, if you will, the international position of the PLO and cooperation between the PLO and the socialist countries.

[Answer] The overwhelming majority of UN members have recognized our organization as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. Consequently, we have been granted the status of observer in the world organization. In addition, the PLO is a full-fledged member of the nonalined countries movement and the Arab League. The UN resolutions passed in recent years unequivocally support the Palestinian people's right of self-determination, the right to return to our homeland and the right to establish our own independent national state.

Close and constantly developing friendly relations and cooperation link the Palestinian resistance movement to the socialist countries' community. The socialist countries consistently and vigorously support our people's independence struggle and the realization of our legitimate rights as soon as possible. They take up the cudgels at every international forum for the justice of our cause. I can say the same about friendly Hungary, which is an active member of the UN committee established to support the Palestinian people's rights. The Hungarian people have supported and are supporting our people's struggle by all moral and material means. The basis of our cooperation is that we are struggling against the same enemy, against the imperialist and reactionary forces, and for the same objective, a just and durable peace, PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi said in conclusion.

COMMUNIQUE ON QADDUMI'S VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

For a CTK report on the communique issued at the end of the visit from 15-17 March by head of the PLO's Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic as published in Prague RUDE PRAVO of 18 March, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 21 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

STATEMENT ISSUED ON QADDUMI VISIT TO BELGRADE

For the TANJUG account of PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi's visit to Yugoslavia and other reportage on that visit, see the Yugoslavia section of the 21 and 22 March issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

KUWAIT

PETROLEUM MINISTER COMMENTS ON OIL PRODUCTION

NC220900Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0805 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 22 March--Petroleum Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah has affirmed that Kuwait will not increase its oil production in the coming phase. In a press statement published here today, the Kuwaiti petroleum minister supported the tendency toward reducing rather than increasing production. He expressed uneasiness over the effect the continued decline in the dollar will have on oil royalties.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah is expected to leave for Geneva on 2 April to attend the extraordinary meeting of the OPEC oil ministers scheduled for 3 April.

YEMEN--PDRY

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CUBAN MINISTER'S VISIT

LD211920Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD/EA

["Text of joint communique on the visit of Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban Communist Party Central Committee secretary and Cuban foreign minister, to the PDRY, issued on 20 March]

[Text] Following the invitation of Muhammad Salih Muti, member of the Politburo of the United Political Organization-the National Front [UPONF] and PDRY foreign minister, Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and foreign minister of Cuba, made a friendly and official visit to the PDRY from 12 to 17 March 1978. Comrade Malmierca and his delegation toured a number of PDRY governorates and inspected historic treasures of antiquity and the revolutionary achievements made by the people of Democratic Yemen in various fields.

Official talks were held between Comrade Muhammad Salih Muti and Comrade Malmierca in a cordial atmosphere characteristic of the friendship and solidarity linking the two peoples, governments and parties in their joint struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, racial discrimination and Zionism, and for the sake of achieving peace and social progress for all the peoples of the world.

Participating in the talks on the Yemeni side were: Abduh Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman, acting Foreign Ministry undersecretary; Abdullah Abud (Hamdan), director of the USSR and Socialist Countries Department in the Foreign Ministry; and Muhammad Hasan Thabit, director of the African and Latin American Department in the Foreign Ministry. On the Cuban side were: (Oscar Orataz), director of the African and Middle East Department; Ustino Baro, Cuban ambassador to the PDRY; and (Antonio Postez), secretary of the Directorate of the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

Comrade Malmierca expressed his high appreciation for the achievements made by the Yemeni revolution during its 10 years of existence and as the result of its constant and consistent efforts to eradicate the legacy left behind by colonialism. He also evaluated the UPONF's current steps to build the brand new vanguard party with its prominent role in building a new society.

He also evaluated the firm solidarity shown by the PDRY Government and people toward the peoples fighting against imperialism, Zionism, and racism for the sake of building their independence and progress.

Comrade Muhammad Salih Muti expressed high appreciation for the people and Government of Cuba and their construction of the first socialist state in the Western Hemisphere and the position it occupies in the world revolutionary struggle, and also for the successes achieved in the political, economic, and social fields under the wise leadership of the Cuban Communist Party and its first secretary, Comrade Fidel Castro. He praised Cuba for facing the burden of the blockade imposed on it by U.S. imperialism and for pursuing a genuinely independent foreign and internationalist policy. In this respect the Yemeni side expressed its appreciation for the generous assistance given by the Cuban people and government for the Yemeni people and the rest of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America by sending doctors and technicians and the qualifying of thousands of students from the developing countries in Cuba to enable them to participate in the development of their countries.

The Cuban side supported the efforts of Democratic Yemen to achieve the historic unity of the Yemeni people. The Republic of Cuba and PDRY are unanimous in their view that the balance of forces within the current international situation is in the interests of socialism, national independence and the socialist progress of the peoples. This is due to a large extent to the efforts of the USSR and the socialist countries and to the victories won by the peoples in their struggle for independence, national liberation and social progress.

The two sides expressed their support for the policy of international detente which has been achieved and condemned the activities of the aggressive circles in the capitalist regimes opposed to this policy.

The two sides paid special attention to the situation in the Middle East and roundly condemned the separate negotiations between Egypt and Israel which aim at obstructing a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem and striking a blow against Arab solidarity and the struggle of the Arab peoples and the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. The two sides emphasized that a just and permanent peace in the Middle East could not be achieved without the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces of occupation from all the Arab lands occupied in 1967 and without a guarantee of their legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people to determine their destiny and establish their independent national state.

The two sides emphasized the importance of the role played by the conference held in December 1977 and also the Algiers conference for the promotion of the unity of the Arab forces and Arab solidarity in face of the imperialist, reactionary and Zionist forces.

The two sides condemned the barbarous Israeli attack on southern Lebanon and condemned the violation of the territorial integrity of Lebanon and the killing of hundreds of innocent people, Palestinian and Lebanese, by barbarous raids on the Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages. They demand the immediate withdrawal of the aggressive Israeli forces from Lebanese territory.

The two sides emphasized their solidarity with the just struggle of the people of Oman who are waging a heroic fight under the leadership of the Patriotic Front for the liberation of Oman against local persecution and the Iranian military presence and for the sake of determining their destiny.

The two sides also condemned the conspiracies of the imperialists and their agents aimed at (?crushing) the unity of the peoples of the Horn of Africa and promoting conflicts between states and nationalist forces of the area, all of which directly harm the real interests of the peoples. They support solving conflicts between them by democratic, peaceful means on a basis of good neighborliness and the OAU and UN charters.

The two sides expressed their rejection of the imperialist designs on the region aimed at tying the Red Sea to imperialist and Zionist policies, and support the efforts aimed at keeping the Red Sea region as a zone of peace and stability and apart from imperialist influence.

The two sides support the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and condemn the presence of military bases and imperialist maneuvers which threaten the peace of the peoples of the region and their security and interests.

The two sides also expressed their support for the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa and expressed their satisfaction over the OAU summit conference recognition of the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe as the sole legitimate representative of the inalienable rights of the people of Zimbabwe. They also expressed their support for SWAPO as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Namibia and considered that there is a need to begin implementing immediately the resolutions of the United Nations and the OAU relating to the issue of that country.

They stressed the need for solidarity with the courageous people of South Africa, who are militantly striving against racial discrimination and for achieving their national independence, led by the African National Council.

The two sides expressed their solidarity with and firm support for the Saharan people led by the POLISARIO and stressed the need to implement the principles of self-determination included in UN Resolution 1,314 which concerned the granting of independence to (?oppressed) countries and peoples.

The two sides also expressed their support for the frontline states which are resisting the pressure of the imperialists and their agents, who are attempting to damage their national independence and territorial integrity. They condemned all imperialist and reactionary aggression against the peoples of Mozambique, Zambia and Angola. (?They supported) at the same time (?what had been achieved) by the Angolan revolution under the leadership of the MPLA Labor Party and President Agostinho Neto.

They expressed their support for the struggle of the Latin American peoples to retrieve their natural resources from local oligarchies and imperialist multinational companies and against the dictatorial regimes under which the peoples of that continent are suffering at this moment, particularly Chile under its fascist military clique, which has assassinated and detained thousands of Chilean citizens, thereby violating the most basic of human rights. They support all the peoples wishing to dispose of their national resources as they themselves wish and their struggle for the establishment of a new economic order on the basis of respect of national sovereignty and the principles of equality and common interest.

The two sides support the struggle of the Puerto Rican people and expressed their support for their right to self-determination.

They support the struggle of the Korean people for unity without external interference.

The two sides affirmed the importance of the policy of the nonalined countries which are opposed to imperialism and their support for the just causes of the peoples fighting against imperialism. They also emphasized their support for the principles and resolutions of the (?fifth) summit conference.

The Yemeni side expressed its appreciation of the positive role represented by Cuba and confirmed its determination to support the sixth summit conference in Havana and to participate in it to make it successful.

The Cuban foreign minister expressed his deep appreciation and thanks to the foreign minister of Democratic Yemen for the great hospitality he and his delegation enjoyed during their stay in the PDRY.

YEMEN--YAR

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES CABLE FROM JORDAN'S HUSAYN

JN211429Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi has received the following cable from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan:

His Excellency brother Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces, San'a'.

I have received with appreciation your cable on the treacherous Israeli aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of fraternal Lebanon. I share Your Excellency's opinion that an urgent Arab summit conference should be held to face the recent developments with responsible solidarity and sincere reality within a unified plan. I assure Your Excellency that Jordan will not spare any efforts to achieve this pan-Arab aim because of its importance in building the Arab deterrent power. I wish Your Excellency health and progress and the Yemeni people glory and prosperity.

Your brother Al-Husayn ibn Talal.

AL-ASNAJ MEETS AMBASSADORS, HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

JN211549Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Under instructions from brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces, brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, foreign minister, today summoned the chiefs of the Arab diplomatic missions accredited to San'a' and the PLO representatives. He handed them the Foreign Ministry statement concerning the YAR's call on the Arab heads of state to hold a summit conference and the subsequent Foreign Ministry statement which was issued after the statement issued by the steadfastness foreign and defense ministers. The steadfastness states' statement ignored the importance of the Arab summit meeting called for by the Yemen Arab Republic. The foreign minister entrusted them to convey the YAR's viewpoints to their respective governments because of the serious current Arab situation. Brother Al-Asnaj praised the Arab states which agreed to the holding of the summit. He said that in calling for the summit the Yemen Arab Republic only tried to cement the Arab schism and to bring the Arabs together.

After the meeting with the ambassadors, the foreign minister held a press conference attended by local, Arab and foreign correspondents. The foreign minister explained the YAR stand on the current issues in the Middle East. He said: Today we met with the brother Arab ambassadors in order to learn the extent of their governments' support for the YAR call to hold an urgent Arab summit without any preconditions. We have informed them of the YAR's regrets about the statement issued by the conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the steadfastness states to the effect that they will not attend any Arab summit unless certain basic changes in the policies of the Arab Republic of Egypt are declared. We regret this because these issues are dealt with by the Arab kings and presidents and not by the foreign ministers. The present situation requires the unification of Arab ranks and the overcoming of the difficulties, particularly when the Israeli occupation is extending to include Arab territories in southern Lebanon. The foreign policy of the YAR requires the drafting of a new basis for an integrated policy which will be independent of superpower interference so as to confront the Israeli aggression. Today we have received the support of 10 Arab states for an Arab summit. We hope that the rest of the Arab states will respond to the call of brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces. We have also called on the Arab states to work together to tighten their measures against the Israeli interests in the Third World countries and to tighten the rules of Arab Boycott concerning the states which have economic relations with Israel in order to make Israel feel that it is not the dominant state in the region and that the Arab nation and the Third World countries are collectively able to inflict irreparable harm on Israeli interests. He said that the Arab heads of state must take a strong stand and this cannot be done without a summit meeting to define a new Arab strategy. Therefore, an Arab summit conference is unavoidable. When the YAR called for this summit it only tried to stop Arab differences.

In reply to a question about the YAR delegation which will visit some Arab states, the foreign minister said: A high-level YAR delegation will visit most of the Arab states which have not yet agreed to the summit, particularly Cairo and Baghdad. The visit will start as soon as possible, but we are waiting right now for the outcome of the contacts made by the Arab League secretary general.

On the coordination between the YAR and Saudi Arabia in this field, Al-Asnaj said: Coordination between us and the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, both on bilateral and fateful issues, is continuing. Saudi Arabia in particular has exerted great efforts in this field, as has Kuwait.

On the YAR stand on the UN Security Council resolution concerning the entry of international peacekeeping forces into Lebanon, Al-Asnaj said: All the arabs have agreed and we have suggested to the brother Arab representatives in the United Nations our opinion that they should meet and take a definite stand. As we have always said, we authorize the confrontation states to define the stand in accordance with its future circumstances. On our part we will help these states and offer them support in all fields. The confrontation states are the states which offer blood, money and souls.

Concluding his press conference the foreign minister said: We feel satisfied because we have exerted sincere efforts for the sake of Arab solidarity. We consider that our efforts have been modest considering the circumstances.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DECIDES TO EXPEL DISORDERLY MEMBER

NC211624Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly resumed its meetings at noon today under Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i. Speaker Mar'i read the report prepared by the assembly bureau following the decision of the assembly to refer the case of the behavior of assembly member 'Ashur Nasr during today's session to the bureau for consideration.

After reviewing the events, the bureau report says that the assembly speaker received a request from more than one-fifth of the assembly members to deprive Shaykh 'Ashur Nasr of his membership because his behavior constitutes a violation of the duties of his post and deprives him of the confidence and esteem of his colleagues. In turn, in implementation of Article 309 of the assembly bylaws, the member has chosen to submit a special request for his membership to be terminated. It was decided to refer the matter to the legislative committee to submit a report as soon as possible.

Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i then read the statement made by the New Al-Wafd Party. The statement of the parliamentary faction of the New Al-Wafd party said that the party will take the necessary measures against him as soon as possible. The assembly then resumed its debate on the supply policy.

AL-AHALI REPORTS EGYPTIAN VOLUNTEERS IN LEBANON

NC220939Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0816 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 March--Quoting informed Palestinian and Egyptian sources, the newspaper AL-AHALI, the mouthpiece of the Egyptian left party, says that scores of Egyptians working in Lebanon have volunteered and are fighting in the ranks of the Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon against the Israeli forces. The paper says that the vanguards of Syrian volunteers--about four units--and of Iraqi volunteers are joining the ranks of the fighters in the Palestinian resistance forces and the Lebanese national forces in the most difficult war of attrition the Israelis have experienced since the end of the 1973 October war.

In a dispatch from Beirut, the paper says that in the current war now raging in southern Lebanon, the Palestinian military and political command has for the first time applied the method of protracted fighting, using small separate groups against the large numbers of Israeli forces. Israel has always avoided this method of fighting because the composition of its forces and its theory of warfare depend mainly on the blitzkrieg method.

MEDICAL TEAM SENT TO LEBANON AT REQUEST OF 'ARAFAT

NC212127Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has ordered that a medical team be sent to Lebanon to treat Palestinian and Lebanese casualties in southern Lebanon. Information and Culture Minister 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi has stated that the decision was adopted at the request of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He added that the Health Ministry has sent a team composed of 11 surgeons and specialists in bone fractures, burns and neurological surgery.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTS ON EFFECTS OF ISRAELI ATTACK

LD211730Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Mar 78 pp 1, 3 LD

[Chief editor 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal article: "The New Dimensions of the Situation"]

[Text] I do not think that the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon has precluded the chances of peace or that it will bring to a halt all the efforts being made so that the peoples of the area finally rid themselves of the shadow of war.

The Tel Aviv incident and the subsequent Israeli attack on southern Lebanon has clearly shown that Israeli security does not lie in expansion and the retaining of occupied territories. The attack on Israel came from the sea, and I do not think that Israel can occupy the sea and annex it to its boundaries. Although statements now being made in Israel, and particularly by Menahem Begin himself, stress the Israelis' insistence on their attitude toward the problem of the Palestinian people, I am almost certain that all the Israelis, after the Tel Aviv incident have now realized that their security can be achieved only through peace based on justice.

In order for the momentum for achieving peace to continue, we must take certain important issues into consideration:

First, we must not allow Israel to complicate the basic problem by making the question of its withdrawal from southern Lebanon an issue with which we preoccupy ourselves and thus direct all efforts toward ousting Israel from southern Lebanon. This is one of Begin's dreams; he wants to escape from the tight spot which the peace initiative has put him in by preoccupying world opinion with a side issue that will distract attention from the basic problem. The Arabs are now on their way to the Security Council to discuss the events in southern Lebanon and, in my opinion, dealing with aggression must be within the framework of the problem as a whole. This means Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and not just concentrating on Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, for this would be something that Israel would welcome and would find in it an opportunity for a way out from the dilemma which it has been and still is facing because of the peace initiative.

Second, Begin will go to Washington to meet with Carter. Therefore, all the Arabs must seek to prevent the Carter-Begin talks from centering on the situation in southern Lebanon only. Rather, they should deal with the problem as a whole. Begin is going to Washington with a new "card" in his hand which he will try to play so as to avoid the expected confrontation with the U.S. President. We Arabs must prevent him from doing so and see that discussions on southern Lebanon should be within the comprehensive talks on the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole and on the need to reach a just and lasting peace.

Third, the Arab efforts today must concentrate on explaining the motives behind the Tel Avid incident and show that it was all due to the despair of the Palestinian people.

Fourth, the statement issued by the U.S. State Department has dealt with the objective aspects of events. But so that the picture may be clear to those who plan U.S. policy in the critical circumstances which the Middle East area is currently experiencing, we would say:

--U.S. interest in the sovereignty of Lebanon on its territory is a very important matter that we must stress, and in the meantime stress that this interest should also apply to the sovereignty of all the Arab countries on their territories, which necessarily means Israeli withdrawal not only from southern Lebanon but from all the occupied Arab territories;

--The U.S. State Department, as it talks about the wave of terror in the area, must seriously study the causes and motives of this wave and realize that it is the result of Israeli intransigence and Menahem Begin's insistence that his personal views should rule the future of the area.

Fifth, as for the Soviet Union, it is also called upon, particularly at this stage, to play an objective and positive role free of outbidding. It is unfortunate indeed that in the midst of these serious events the Soviet media are trying to exploit the situation in a childish manner and are far from being serious. The media ignore the real reasons behind all that has happened and attribute the situation to reasons which they, before anybody else, know to be ridiculous.

Sixth, the Palestinian resistance too must take into consideration the fact that its enemies are many, and therefore every word it says is noted and exploited against it in the worse possible manner. Therefore, the statements of the PLO leaders must be studied and calculated. They must not be carried away by slogans and resounding words which have proved to be useless and which often backfired on those who make them.

These, in my opinion, are the new dimensions of the situation. The picture is not as gloomy as some are trying to paint it and which some are trying to exploit.

If we realize that we are in a much better situation than Israel--since its occupation of southern Lebanon furthers its involvement and reveals its true intentions--then we can achieve what we want only provided that we act in light of higher Arab interest and not of narrow personal interests and we avoid outbiddings and slogans.

The conspiracy which some have hatched against the sincere and serious efforts to achieve peace has come to light, and I do not think that following the recent events the Arab public opinion is prepared to accept any kind of conspiring against its future and rights.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM Comment

LD201722Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 18 Mar 78 p 8 LD

[Mustafa Amin article: "Aggression Against Us All"]

[Excerpts] Those who claim that the Israeli aggression against Lebanon improves the chances of peace are fooling themselves. With this aggression Menahem Begin intended to spare Israel the danger of peace. In recent weeks Begin felt that he was being encircled; his relations with the United States were deteriorating, the world's governments have been accusing him of deviousness and corruption, and world opinion has turned against him. Therefore, he wanted to get out of this trap. He took the opportunity of the fedayeen attack on a bus in Tel Aviv to invade Lebanon and to make the peace talks even more difficult if not impossible.

At the beginning Israel wanted to punish the fedayeen, but then the operation developed into extermination of the Palestinians. At the beginning of the invasion it was a limited military operation but after one day it became a permanent occupation.

Israel claims that it does not covet a single millimeter of Lebanese territory and that all that it wants is to stop attacks on itself. After a few days Israel will demand secure borders and in a few months' time will demand settlements. Later it will give Israeli names to locations in Lebanese territory.

Menahem Begin felt that Israeli public opinion had begun to revolt against him and to blame his arrogance and intransigence for blocking the path to peace. Therefore, by this operation he wanted to restore a climate of wars, fighting, and military conquests to the area so that the olive branches in the hands of children will turn into machineguns, so that fear and suspicion will once again return to the hearts of the Israelis, and to drive a wedge into the peace talks.

Diplomatic cirlces assert that the plan to invade Lebanon was not drawn up after the fedayeen attack in Tel Aviv; rather, it was preplanned, carefully drawn up and rehearsed before that. It was scheduled for last November. It was not a plan for the invasion of Lebanon only but to strike at Syria at the same time.

But when Begin was surprised by As-Sadat's initiative he was forced to postpone the two operations. But he decided to take the opportunity to implement the first plan, and if the Syrian forces intervene he will implement the military operation against Syria.

Therefore, it is not a matter of retaliating for the fedayeen operation but a premeditated and deliberate crime by which Menahem Begin wants to prove to the Israelis that the best policy for Israeli security is to attack Israel's neighbors.

Menahem Begin imagines that this Hitlerite military adventure has achieved several objectives. He has at least averted the danger of peace for some time because it is illogical that peace negotiations will continue under a new Israeli occupation. At the same time he has pushed back the Palestinian resistance from the borders area known as "Fatah land" which contained fedayeen fortifications and bases. At the same time he will create new differences between the Lebanese Government and the fedayeen. But Menahem Begin will be grossly mistaken if he thinks that he can always win such a game.

It is the duty of the Arabs to try to benefit from this new catastrophe. We do not want to take this opportunity to settle our accounts with anybody. But we would say that Israel would not have been able to deal such a blow to all of us had it not been for the Arab differences and had not some of the Arabs been spending the last few months trying to convince the Arabs that their real enemy is As-Sadat and Egypt and that they can liberate Palestine alone without the assistance of the weak, capitulatory and treacherous Egypt.

Libya, for example, did not send a single plane of the hundreds of the modern planes that it imported from the Soviet Union in order to strike at the Israeli attack or to gain revenge for the massacring of hundreds of civilian children in Lebanon. This is because the armies of the rejectionist states are supposed to use their weapons in defense of their governments aginst their people and not to defend any Arab people.

The Soviet Union will, as usual, issue a strongly worded statement denouncing aggression, and the Soviet delegate at the Security Council will make a violent speech in which he will attack imperialism and shower curses on the criminals. It will also use its veto power so that fighting in Lebanon will continue.

This situation is a stab in the back of every Arab. The fall of every Palestinian and Lebanese in Lebanon today is felt with the same pain as if those falling were Egyptian soldiers hit by enemy bullets. But in these circumstances we should not be content with expressions of pain and sympathy. Rather we should resort to rapid and serious action.

The first thing that we should do is to close our ranks, learn from our lessons and realize that Israel has been able to enter Lebanon only through the gap of our differences and divisions.

This invasion will not divide the Arabs but rather should unite them against aggression. It is only then that we can turn mistakes into gains.

FOREIGN MINISTER SUPPORTS ZIMBABWE STRUGGLE

NC171152Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil issued a statement today on the occasion of Zimbabwe day in which he said: The Egyptian Government is happy to hail the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, under the leadership of their Patriotic Front, to realize their freedom and independence, to end colonialism and eliminate Ian Smith's illegitimate regime, which continues to defy world society. Egypt also emphasizes the responsibility of Britain in this regard in enabling the black majority to assume power.

The foreign minister added that Egypt is confident that despite their prevarications, all the white minority regimes in the African Continent will not be able to avoid being isolated by the world conscience or hold out forever in the face of the mounting legitimate activities of the rebels in southern Africa. Egypt emphasizes that the liberation of Zimbabwe and Namibia and the bringing to an end of racial discrimination in South Africa are essential for the achievement of peace and justice in the African Continent.

The foreign minister reaffirmed Egypt's support for the Anglo-American settlement plan which was submitted in September 1977. He said that Egypt considers this plan as an acceptable settlement and that it announces its rejection and denunciation of the so-called internal settlement declaration of last February.

In conclusion, the foreign minister said that Egypt condemns the internal settlement on the basis that it is merely an attempt to dishearten the people of Zimbabwe. He urged world society not to recognize such a settlement and to support all the current efforts of the African group within the Security Council. He reaffirmed Egypt's condemnation of Rhodesia's recurring aggressions against the African confrontation states and Egypt's solidarity with these states. He also emphasized Egypt's demand that the Security Council adopt all measures necessary to deter such aggression in the future.

VOICE OF MASSES: STEADFASTNESS MINISTERS' DECISIONS NEGLIGIBLE

JN216157Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] After 14 hours of meetings in Damascus, the foreign and defense ministers of the steadfastness and confrontation states last night issued decisions which do not deserve a moment's notice. The foreign and defense ministers of Algiera, Syria, the PDRY and Libya were unable after four meetings, to issue practical decisions to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon. They only issued a general political statement on the current situation.

PDRY, ALGERIAN, LIBYAN, SYRIAN ENVOYS CALLED FOR TALKS

JN211048Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1032 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 March--This morning the Iraqi Foreign Ministry summoned for the second time the heads of the diplomatic missions of the PDRY, Algeria, Libya and Syria.

INA has learned that the aim behind contacting these diplomatic missions is to acquaint them with Iraq's views and stand regarding the escalation of fighting in southern Lebanon and the need to consolidate the steadfastness of the fighters on the front. The Foreign Ministry asked the heads of these diplomatic missions to convey this to their governments.

STUDENTS FEDERATION TO REGISTER VOLUNTEERS FOR S. LEBANON

JN201526Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1454 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 March--The Executive Bureau of the National Federation of Iraqi Students has decided to open the door for volunteering to all Iraqi students who wish to fight the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon with the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

Announcing this, a responsible source of the Federation said that all Federation branches and committees have been advised to register names of Iraqi school and university students who wish to volunteer as of today. The source added that this measure stems from the requirements imposed by the present stage through which the Arab nation is passing. The measures are also in conformity with the stands of the National Federation of Iraqi Students and its student masses, who have participated in the Arab nation's battles and have offered their blood to protect the Arab character of Lebanon, and the central cause, that of Palestine.

More than 6,000 Iraqi students yesterday visited the headquarters of the General Federation of Palestinian Students and the League of Lebanese Students to donate blood.

Thousands Volunteer to Fight

JN211402Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1775 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 March--Thousands of Iraqis have volunteered in response to the call of pan-Arab duty and in defense of southern Lebanon, which is being subjected to a Zionist invasion. The centers of worker, student and peasant organizations and of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in various parts of Iraq were crowded this morning with volunteers who came to enlist to fight with the forces of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement against the treacherous Zionist aggression backed by world imperialism. These centers began to receive volunteers 2 days ago.

BA'TH PARTY GIVES AID TO EVACUEES IN S. LEBANON

JN2109462 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 March--The National Command of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party has granted $5 million in preliminary aid to the evacuees from the battlefields in southern Lebanon.

The amount has been handed over to the Joint Forces Relief Committee. Five centers have been set up in Sidon and Beirut to receive the evacuees, who now number some 100,000.

Medical Aid Sent

JN2112292 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] On instructions from President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and the command of the party and revolution, and out of feelings of pan-Arab responsibility and the great role of Iraq in supporting the Palestinian revolution and the fraternal Lebanese people, it has been decided to send large quantities of medicines and medical supplies to fraternal Lebanon.

USSR AMBASSADOR CONVEYS MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER

JN2210562 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1048 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi received this morning Anatoliy Barkovskiy, Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

During the meeting the Soviet ambassador conveyed a message from the Soviet leaders to the Iraqi Government.

HUSAYN PRESIDES OVER IRAQI DIPLOMATS' MEETING

JN2013102 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 March--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, today presided over a meeting of the heads of the Iraqi diplomatic missions in Third World countries.

During the meeting Saddam Husayn commented on and gave instructions about Iraq's foreign policy with these countries.

The meeting was attneded by Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Ba'th Party regional command; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, foreign minister; Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, minister of information; 'Abd al-Malik Yasin, and Mundhir 'Uraym, Foreign Ministry undersecretaries; and a number of directors in the Foreign Ministry.

BA'TH PARTY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MOSCOW MEETINGS

JN2207422 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0722 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--A delegation of cadres of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party left this morning for the Soviet Union on a visit of several days. During the visit the delegation will hold meetings with CPSU officials aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two parties.

JORDANIAN KING'S ENVOY ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN221133Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--Envoy of Jordan's King Husayn to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr arrived here at noon today. 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council member and interior minister, received Jordanian envoy and Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar.

ENVOY LEAVES FOR PAKISTAN WITH MESSAGE

JN201837Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1756 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 March--Yusuf al-Kilani left Baghdad this evening for Islamabad, as a special envoy from President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, Pakistan's chief martial law administrator.

The envoy carries a message from President al-Bakr to Gen Zia-ul-Haq dealing with relations between the two friendly countries.

POLISH JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN ARRIVES

JN190750Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 March--Jan Mietkowski, chairman of the Polish Association of Journalists, arrived in Baghdad this morning for a 7-day visit to Iraq.

Mietkowski stated that he will discuss with the Iraqi Journalists Association the question of developing and deepening cooperation in the interests of the two friendly countries.

ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT LEADER SABI ARRIVES

JN182149Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2052 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 March--'Uthman Salih Sabi, chairman of the Central Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front, arrived in Baghdad tonight on a visit to Iraq within a tour of a number of Arab states.

During his visit to Iraq, Sabi will hold talks with officials in the Ba'th Party National Command on the latest developments in the Horn of Africa and the Eritrean revolution.

KING HUSAYN MAKES SPEECH AT ARMY BRIGADE

JN211946Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn said: The challenges and danger we are facing require us to be extremely alert and ready to make further sacrifices in this Arab land and in the big homeland in order to insure a better life for our nation and the coming; generations. This would be an act of faithfulness to our martyred brothers, comrades and grandfathers throughout history.

In a speech made at a ceremony held by the Husayn ibn 'Ali Brigade on the 21st anniversary of its establishment, King Husayn said: In these delicate and hard circumstances we are all standing unified with all determination. We realize the dangers and the duties we must perform. King Husayn said that this day is one of the glorious days in the history of our Arab army because it coincides with the anniversary of the Al-Karamah battle waged by our army and young men. The Al-Karamah battle was a turning point after the June 1967 defeat. That battle was in defense of Jordan and our rights.

HUSAYN RECEIVES SOVIET, PRC ENVOYS, U.S. CHARGE

JN181920Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening received individually at the Royal Hashemite Court the Soviet ambassador, the PRC ambassador and the U.S. charge d'affaires. He discussed with them the latest developments in the area.

HUSAYN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER

JN181914Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received a message from U.S. President Jimmy Carter in reply to his message to the U.S. President. The two messages deal with the developments in the situation in the area.

AR-RA'Y: POSSIBLE CABINET CHANGES IN SYRIA, LEBANON

JN210751Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Mar 78 p 1 JN

[By AR-RA'Y correspondent]

[Text] Damascus--Well-informed Syrian sources have told the AR-RA'Y correspondent that it is likely that a cabinet reshuffle will take place in Syria soon.

These Syrian sources believe 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, the present prime minister, will be selected to reshape the government. Other observers in the Syrian capital, however, see the possibility of other personalities, including Maj Gen Naji Jamil, the air force commander, and Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, speaker of the People's Assembly.

In Beirut circles of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies indicate that consultations are underway to form a new Lebanese Government to succeed that of Dr Salim al-Huss. Among the candidates: the present prime minister, Malik Salam and a number of other leaders.

20 MARCH INCIDENT REPORTED; DEMONSTRATIONS BANNED

JN201655Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] In the wake of the savage Israeli attack on Lebanon, in the wake of the barbaric raids against unarmed citizens in the [Palestinian refugee] camps and Lebanese villages, and as a result of Jordan's clear and pure stand regarding these schemes--against which His Majesty King Husayn has constantly warned and cautioned, calling on the Arabs to rise up to the level of the gravity of these machinations and to rally their ranks using all their potentials to foil these machinations so that they would not spread beyond Lebanon, as is happening now and has happened in the past--the sons of our people have expressed their noble sentiments, their sensing of the danger and their denunciation of the enemy's treachery and the wavering of the brethren by donating blood, forming committees to collect donations, and voluntarily enlisting to bolster the steadfastness of their brethren who are bravely resisting aggression.

For the past 4 days this expression of sentiments was manifested in such a noble and generous way, until today when we felt that there were a few trying to channel the spontaneous sentiments of our sons the students and our brother citizens into suspect directions of a moblike nature. We had thought that events and calamities over a period of 25 years of catastrophes had proved not only that such actions are futile, but that they serve the interests of the enemy and those supporting him.

When the police tried to prevent such trends from achieving their objectives, they were subjected to certain acts of violence. As a result several people were wounded. They were all given first aid. Six people, including two policemen, were admitted to hospital for treatment.

In view of this and as a safeguard to the public interest and security, strict instructions have been issued to prevent any demonstration of any size. The brother citizens have the opportunity to express their sincere sentiments in truly useful ways be sending donations of funds and blood and paving the way for those brother citizens who are trained to join their brother strugglers.

Clear orders have been issued to the border points to this effect. The centers of recruitment and training are ready to receive anybody who wants to be militarily trained. Blood bank centers in all areas continue to receive the brother citizens who wish to donate blood to the victims of the Israeli aggression. The Health Ministry sent the first consignment of blood this morning to be handed over to the Palestinian Red Crescent in Damascus.

We thank the citizens for their noble sentiments and their positive and sincere patriotic affiliation.

PRIME MINISTER RETURNS TO BEIRUT FROM DAMASCUS

NC211745Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss arrived in Beirut a short time ago and proceeded to the presidential palace in B'abda immediately to brief President Sarkis on the results of his talks in Damascus. Prime Minister al-Huss had paid an 8-hour visit to Damascus during which he met with a number of Syrian officials. He also had a long meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in the presence of Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi.

It has been reported that during his visit to Syria Prime Minister al-Huss discussed the Lebanese situation with regard to the (?position) of the Arab deterrent forces in light of the current security situation and Syria's position on the (?presence) of UN forces. It has also been learned that the recent influx of armed men and arms into Lebanon through Syria was also elaborately discussed.

Al-Huss Comments

NC220434Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss last night conveyed to President Ilyas Sarkis an oral message from President Hafiz al-Asad. The prime minister said that his talks with President al-Asad had been positive and were held in an atmosphere of understanding and sincere fraternity.

LEBANESE-SYRIAN SUMMIT EXPECTED TO BE HELD SOON

NC220546Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Political sources expect a Lebanese-Syrian summit to be held soon in order to review the security situation in Lebanon and the possibilities that might arise in relation to the general situation in the area and the armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon now that all the agreements, including the Cairo and Shtawrah agreements, have become void.

PALESTINIANS, LEBANESE NATIONALISTS MEET IN BEIRUT

JN211121Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 March--The commands of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement held a joint meeting last night during which they reviewed the military situation in southern Lebanon in light of the Zionist expansion and the enemy's crossing of the so-called red line along the course of the Litani River. The meeting was chaired by Yasir 'Arafat and lasted until early today. The As-Sa'iqah representative did not attend the meeting.

It has been learned that the conferees decided to defend Tyre and the surrounding axes as well as An-Nabatiyah and other positions, particularly Al-Khardali Bridge and Al-Qa'iyah. They also decided to send more troops into the enemy's rear lines. The conferees decided to continue the fighting with all available means so long as there is a single Zionist soldier in the south. They also decided not to succumb to any extortion by any Arab side. The INA correspondent said that the conferees agreed on certain measures which will boost steadfastness and facilitate the passage of Iraqi aid to the joint forces.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON ATTACK

JN212022Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 March--The Central Political Council of the Progressive National Parties and Forces held a meeting this evening and discussed the grave and increasing developments on the military and political levels in the confrontation of the war launched by the Zionist enemy to overrun southern Lebanon. A statement issued by the council at the end of the meeting said that the enemy is escalating his aggression against southern Lebanon and expanding his occupation according to a plan to totally overrun southern Lebanon. The statement also said that the Zionist enemy is concentrating his aggressive offensive on civilian targets to impose evacuation and immigration.

The statement said that the Zionist enemy is continuing his war now despite and after the UN Security Council resolution which calls for his withdrawal. The statement stressed that the enemy aims to occupy the greater part of southern Lebanon as a first stage to achieve his ambitions in southern Lebanon under the protext of insuring his security, controlling the fate of southern Lebanon, liquidating the Palestinian revolution and striking at the nationalist forces in Lebanon.

The Nationalist Movement reasserted its decision to continue to confront the Zionist aggression. It called on the Lebanese masses to make all the sacrifices possible to liberate the land. The statement demanded that the Lebanese authorities shoulder their responsibilities concerning unconditional Zionist withdrawal. The council repeated its call to the progressive, friendly and allied forces to support the just, national and pan-Arab struggle to liberate the land and safeguard the homeland.

LEBANESE FRONT ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

NC211406Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Lebanese front held a meeting from 1100 to 1345 hours today in the home of former President Camille Sham'un. All the members attended. The front discussed the Security Council's resolution and its internal and external effects. After the meeting the front secretary general made the following statement:

After taking cognizance of Security Council Resolution 425 of 19 March 1978, the confrontations which preceded it and the discussions which took place in it, the national front declares that the Security Council's resolution deals with only one temporary aspect of the Lebanese issue, the events of which have been taking place successively for more than 5 years. While rejecting the crossing of the Lebanese borders by the Israeli forces as a result of an irresponsible Palestinian action, the front also rejects the continuation of the Palestinian presence, particularly the armed presence which has led to a war and to Israeli military intervention. In view ofthis the front has no alternative but to place on record:

1. Having decided to resort to the Security Council, the Lebanese Government should have asked the Security Council to tackle all aspects of the Lebanese issue.

2. Presenting the Lebanese issue to the Security Council in such a mutilated manner has not satisfied Lebanese public opinion.

3. Leaving the Lebanese borders open to alien forces and to the flow of weapons and equipment threatens the danger of a new war. The front warns the Lebanese Government, the Security Council and the major powers against the danger of such a war.

4. The front calls on the government to present the Lebanese question to the Security Council again, particularly as it has been proved that arms and fighters are pouring into Lebanon.

5. In any event, the front calls on the government to instruct its delegate at the United Nations to circulate this statement as an official document among all members of the Security Council and all UN members.

6. The front has decided to give wide publicity to its statement in the world.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondent has learned that if the Lebanese Government does not respond to the Lebanese front's call for circulating its statement as an official document among the Security Council's members, it will send a delegation headed by Charles Malik to explain all dimensions of the Lebanese question. This point is being seriously debated now. Front sources said that if the official response is [presumably not] in support of the front's demands, then the front will take steps which are described as decisive.

MARONITE DEPUTIES ISSUE STATEMENT ON SITUATION

NC212003Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Independent Maronite deputies held a meeting this afternoon at the home of Deputy Maurice Zuwayn in Mu'amalatayn. After discussing the recent developments, following the Israeli aggression on Lebanese territory, the participants agreed to do the following:

1. To call on the government to follow the implementation of Resolution 425 dated 19 March 1978, which was issued by the UN Security Council, to follow the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory and to insure the immediate entry of the Lebanese Army in the south in order to enforce the state's authority there.

2. To ask the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies to hold a meeting to discuss the Palestinian presence in Lebanon in light of the principle of maintaining absolute Lebanese sovereignty and enforcing the state's authority on all its territories.

3. To entrust a committee of the [Maronite] grouping with the task of conveying these resolutions to the responsible quarters and authorities.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS MEETS WITH SIILASVUO

NC211250Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Fu-ad Butrus, minister of foreign and expatriate affairs and defense, and the army commander met with UN General Siilasvuo, Brigadier General Erskine and Mr (Brito) at the Defense Ministry for about an hour. Afterward, another working meeting was convened in the office of the army commander. It was attended by General Siilasvuo, his entourage and the chief of the general staff, staff Brig Gen Munir Turabayy. After the meeting all of them went to the (Comfort) Hotel for lunch at the invitation of the army commander. The working meetings will continue afterwards.

GENERAL SIILASVUO ON STATIONING OF UN FORCES

NC211718Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The coordinator of the UN emergency forces in the Middle East, Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, has described the talks to be held with Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus, with Commander of the Lebanese Army Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri and senior Lebanese officers as very useful. He added that these talks were part of the consultations to pave the way for stationing UN forces in Lebanon.

He said that the UN forces' units usually arrive at their country of destination by air and that the arrival date of the first unit to Lebanon has not yet been fixed. Asked whether a cease-fire is a condition for the arrival of the first unit, General Siilasvuo replied: This would be useful.

He was then asked: If the military operations do not cease, will you dispatch the first unit or not? To which he replied: We will study the matter. General Siilasvuo explained that the arrival of the units of UN forces does not depend on the United Nations only but also on the countries which will provide the men for these units. He added: The speed [with which this is done] depends on the proximity or remoteness of these countries. However, I would prefer that these forces arrive as soon as possible.

Asked whether he will visit the south today, he replied: I will not visit the south today because I know the area very well. However, I will return to Jerusalem in the afternoon. Asked whether the forces will be sent from Cyprus, he said: Initially these forces will be sent from the Golan or the Sinai and not from Cyprus. However, nothing of the sort has definitely been decided.

General Siilasvuo affirmed that the Lebanese Army will take over control of the area in which the UN forces will be stationed when it will be ready for that, adding that the UN forces will number 4000 men and that they will be equipped with light defensive weapons without armor.

He was asked: If the Palestinians enter the region in which the UN forces will be stationed, what will your position be in that case? He replied: We hope that there will be an agreement between us and the Palestinians and that no excesses will occur. To another question he replied that he might return to Lebanon again.

General Siilasvuo was asked: Will you undertake to ask for a cease-fire from the Israelis during your visit to Jerusalem? He replied: I hope that this matter will be resolved soon.

General Siilasvuo left Beirut this afternoon on his way to Jerusalem.

BEIRUT REPORTS UN FORCES EXPECTED, 21 MARCH SHELLING

NC220631Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Vanguards of UN forces are expected to arrive in the south today. They will be charged with supervising the implementation of the cease-fire decision and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

Latest reports from the southern areas indicate that intermittent exchanges of fire were still heard 3 hours after Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman had announced that his forces would abide by the cease-fire. In its latest report from the south, AFP says that the sound of explosions and automatic fire was heard during last night in the Tyre sector. AFP also spoke about the outbreak of new sporadic clashes.

Iranian UN Contingent Arrives

NC220650Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] An Iranian contingent consisting of 400 troops arrived in Al-Qulay'ah in the south at 0710 today. The force is due to move to the Al-Litani area at 1100 today.

Iranians in Marj 'Uyun; French To Arrive

NC220825Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A reconnaissance group of the Iranian force operating with the UN forces in the Golan Heights entered the Marj 'Uyun area this morning to study the positions at first hand prior to the arrival of the remaining Iranian force on Thursday morning.

Meanwhile, a French reconnaissance and coordination group is expected to arrive in Beirut today. It will discuss with UN officials arrangements for the French force, which is expected to arrive at Beirut International Airport tomorrow to participate with the UN temporary forces in southern Lebanon.

PRESIDENT SARKIS PRAISES JORDAN'S PAN-ARAB ROLE

JN211303Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis has expressed his pride and appreciation over Jordan's stand toward the events taking place in southern Lebanon. He said: I appreciate the role His Majesty King Husayn is playing in the service of Arab issues.

President Sarkis praised the pan-Arab speech His Majesty King Husayn delivered to the Arab nation, in which he demanded that this nation shoulder its responsibilities. He also praised his majesty's attitudes toward the Arab issues and commended the Jordanian Government statement which denounced the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

President Sarkis said this when he received this morning Hisham al-Muhaysin, Jordanian charge d'affaires in Beirut, who conveyed a letter from His Majesty King Husayn on convening an Arab summit conference to discuss the deteriorating situation in southern Lebanon. The charge d'affaires announced that he reviewed with President Sarkis the situation in southern Lebanon, the current Arab situation and the fraternal relations between Jordan and Lebanon. He added that President Sarkis had expressed his thanks and appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts as well as those of the Jordanian Government for the sake of Lebanon and the achievement of Arab solidarity.

FIGHTING REPORTEDLY CONTINUES AROUND TYRE

JN211345Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 March--As of 1330 the Zionist bombardment was still intense on all axes of fighting around the town of Tyre and the Al-'Urqub region.

Meanwhile, the advanced special groups have been waging fierce battles behind and within the enemy lines since yesterday morning. The enemy is using helicopter-borne troops and is quickly transferring them from position to position in order to reply to the operations carried by these special groups in all sectors. During these operations the enemy lost more than 20 mean as well as several vehicles.

BEIRUT RADIO: SITUATION RELATIVELY CALM IN SOUTH

NC220728Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The security situation is relatively calm in the southern Lebanon area. Meanwhile, political contacts are active on the local, Arab and international spheres to discuss the results of the Israeli military presence in the south, the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and the problem of thousands of refugees from the southern villages and arrangements to return them to their homes.

ISRAELIS REPORTEDLY SET UP ROADBLOCKS IN SOUTH

NC220545Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] It has been reported from the south that roadblocks have been set up at the approaches to towns and villages captured by the Israeli forces to check if any fedayeen are still there.

ARAB UNIVERSITY CLOSED FOR 2-WEEK PERIOD

NC211627Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1553 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 21 March--It has been decided to close down the Arab University of Beirut temporarily for 2 weeks, effective today, in view of the present situation in Lebanon, in order to avoid any possible student troubles.

The university's administration will later consider fixing a date for reopening the university in light of developments.

The university's president, Dr Muhammad Kamil Laylah, will leave Beirut Thursday for Cairo to discuss with officials at the Egyptian universities the possibility of allowing the Egyptian students of the Arab University of Beirut to take their exams this year at Egyptian universities.

It is worth noting that there are about 6,000 students registered at the Beirut university.

LEBANON'S AL-HUSS MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO DAMASCUS

Al-Huss Arrival

JN211437 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss arrived in Damascus at 1000 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at the border by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi; local government minister Taha al-Khayrat; 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Adib Milhim, minister of state for presidential affairs. The governor of the city of Damascus and the Damascus district police commander also received Dr al-Huss.

Dr al-Huss made the following statement to newsmen: I am making this visit to Damascus to discuss with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the prime minister and officials in fraternal Syria the situation arising from the criminal Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, the results of this aggression and the situation that has arisen following the issuance of the well-known Security Council resolution on southern Lebanon.

Dr al-Huss added: We have grown accustomed to having fraternal Syria always stand by our side in times of difficulty. The distinguished relations linking our two countries prompt us to consult during this phase, to exchange views and to coordinate the stands of our two countries. We will exchange views and work on coordination between us. Our interest is directed toward securing the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, achieving the return of the legitimate authority to southern Lebanon and securing the return of the evacuees to their homes.

Khulayfawi Statement

JN211520 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 21 March--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss arrived in Damascus at 1000 today.

Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi made a statement to newsmen in which he welcomed the Lebanese prime minister and said: The meetings of officials from the two countries always take place on all levels in a frank manner. These meetings indicate the depth of the ties of fraternity, cooperation and coordination between the two brotherly countries.

The prime minister affirmed that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, places all its capabilities for the return of tranquility and stability to Lebanon. He then added: there is no doubt that the situation in the fraternal country should be dealt with wisely and in a manner that will lead to the removal of the Israeli invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon. This can be accomplished through what is currently taking place, whether in the United Nations or in the Arab and international meetings. The Israeli invasion will be part of the talks Dr Salim al-Huss will hold in Syria.

In reply to a question on Syria's stand in case Israel does not implement the Security Council resolution which stipulates its withdrawal, the prime minister said: Syria has announced its stand. When the efforts being exerted fail, we shall see what can be done.

In reply to a question regarding Syria's stand toward convening an Arab summit conference, the prime minister said that Syria has announced its refusal to attend any summit conference under the umbrella of the policy of the Egyptian president. He then pointed out that the decisions of the foreign and defense ministers of the states of the Front of steadfastness and confrontation had also announced this.

In reply to another question, Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi stressed that Syria has called and will always call for the unity of the Arab stand, especially regarding the issue of Palestine, which is the basic issue. We have affirmed and still affirm that the Arab-Zionist struggle is the axis at which there should be a unified Arab stand. Proceeding from this, the Tripoli and Algiers conferences were held. They stressed that the sphere of cooperation to resist the occupation and stand in the face of the Zionist plans is open for all.

At the end of his statement, the prime minister affirmed that Syria calls on all the Arabs to adopt a unified stand within the principles announced in these two conferences.

Al-Huss Meets Al-Asad, Departs

JN211650Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At 1345 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

During the meeting they discussed the situation resulting from Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, the ensuing developments and the measures that must be taken to achieve withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

President al-Asad stressed Syria's support for fraternal Lebanon and that it will side with Lebanon and with the Palestinian Arab people in the face of the aggression. Dr al-Huss expressed Lebanon's thanks and appreciation of Syria's stand.

Dr al-Huss made a statement to journalists after his meeting with President as-Asad. He described his talks with Al-Asad as positive and said that an atmosphere of understanding prevailed in them. He said that President as-Asad gave him a verbal message to President Ilyas Sarkis. He further said: My visit to Damascus, as I said this morning, was to hold talks with President al-Asad and Syrian officials on the current situation in Lebanon and the developments following the oppressive Israeli aggression against Lebanon and in light of the Security Council resolutions. He said that this stage requires consultations with the Syrian officials in these critical circumstances in order to coordinate the stands between the two countries concerning the steps that must be taken to insure the withdrawal of the Israeli aggressors from the Lebanese territory, the return of the legitimate authority to southern Lebanon and the return of the evacuees from southern Lebanon to their homes.

Dr al-Huss left Damascus at 1700 today for Beirut after a 1-day visit. He was seen off at the Lebanese-Syrian border by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, a number of ministers and the Damascus governor.

ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES DAMASCUS FOR HOME

JN211255Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus for home this morning after attending the meetings of the conference of the foreign and defense ministers of the steadfastness and confrontation front states. Bouteflika was seen off at the airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Maj Gen Naji Jamil, deputy defense minister and commander of the air force and air defense; several officials of the Syrian foreign ministry; the Algerian charge d'affaires in Damascus; and members of the Algerian Embassy staff.

AL-ASAD'S VISIT TO INDIA POSTPONED DUE TO LEBANON

JN212027Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The following statement was issued today: In view of the explosive situation in Lebanon, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has been forced to postpone his visit to India. The Indian Government has expressed total understanding. Agreement has been reached to set a later date for the visit suitable to the circumstances of both sides.

ATH-THAWRAH LAUDS STEADFASTNESS FRONT RESOLUTIONS

JN220738Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Difficult Choice and the Required Stands," ATH-THAWRAH comments on Syria's role in confronting the Zionist aggression and Syria's stand against the capitulatory course in the Arab area.

The paper says: Syria has chosen the road of steadfastness and resistance to foil the capitulatory course in the area and to resist the Zionist-imperialist scheme aimed at liquidating the Arab issue and enabling Israel to achieve its aggressive and expansionist ambitions. Syria has done so intentially, knowing full well the perils it will be exposed to as a result of this choice. Such perils could begin with a treacherous attack on its territory as President al-Asad has pointed out in his press interviews.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: When observers look carefully into the various aspects of the situation and examine the nature of the current phase through which the Arab area is passing, they can arrive at a basic fact which briefly is that Syria is the target of the Zionists and imperialists. This is because Syria is the spear constantly pointed at Israel's heart. It seems that under the cover of the hot events in southern Lebanon As-Sadat tried to play a very dangerous role by asking his allies to move quickly and secure for him a good conduct certificate by making all forget the past and turn over a new leaf. However, the decision adopted by the foreign ministers of the front of steadfastness and resistance in Damascus--a decision which rejects any meeting with the capitulatory president of the Egyptian regime--has placed the problem once again in its proper perspective. The decision restored strength to the Arab stand, which is necessary to deter the Zionist aggression and to expand the comprehensive political sorting-out process in the Arab area.

In conclusion the paper says: Now that the features of the picture have become so clear, it is most likely that the Zionist-imperialist onslaught on Syria will become fiercer and more ferocious. This dictates that we arm ourselves with maximum political enlightenment and vigilance. We should also close the ranks of our national unity and quickly adopt measures which could really deter the Zionist aggression and foil the enemies' schemes internally and externally. We should also protect our domestic march from those who are trying to drag us into grave and perilous positions.

DAMASCUS RADIO: ISRAELI INVASION 'TRAP' FOR SYRIA

JN192220Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1940 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Political observers are unanimous that the imperialist-Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon cannot be just an excited reaction to the bold fedayeen operation inside the occupied territories last week. Moreover the invasion is not just another of the military operations or aggressions launched by Israel from time to time against the Lebanese south and in the region--aggressions which have become part of its expansionist identity and nature.

Observers say that the invasion is the direct and blatant implementation of a big and serious phase of the imperialist-Zionist plot. This plot has been threatening the Arab region since the October war of liberation, and As-Sadat's visit is one of its main phases. Observers assert that this plot is aimed at the liquidation of the Arab cause and dignity, at the disintegration of the Arab struggle and at ending the Arab struggle in the interest of the enemy. Undoubtedly, this new stage of the plot being acted out on Lebanese soil is a direct and violent answer to the steadfastness of the Syrian Arab region, to its firm and principled stand, to its rejection of all the attempts at coercion and capitulation and to its condemnation of the settlemments of capitulation, particularly the treasonable As-Sadat project.

This invasion is also aimed at lqiudating the Palestinian revolution and its existence through indiscriminate killing of women and children, in addition to the fighters, and through burning cultivated land and destroying buildings in order to facilitate the imposition of schemes and humiliating settlements.

If we follow the current of events in the Middle East for the past few months and if we carefully read the statements of the U.S. political leaders during and before the Israeli operation, we find that the operation was planned and prepared in the departments of the United States. The operation was implemented with U.S. participation and coordination with the Zionist enemy and with the blessings of the parties which are interested in implementing U.S. plans in the region. Even if the United States tries to acquit itself of what is happening, to show its desire to end the operation and make the forces withdraw from southern Lebanon, even if it appears concerned that such events will not take place in the future, it will not deceive anybody or absolve itself from full responsibility for this treacherous aggression. The United States will not succeed in this plot.

The recent U.S. call for the Israeli withdrawal and for a rearrangement [in the area] is to serve its interests and facilitate the implementation of the plot in the future, aimed at creating a new reality in the region and finding the means to exercise direct pressure against Syria. This is in order to impose any solution it desires and reserve for itself the greatest possible number of cards.

Any talk about supporting the Palestinian revolution, not taking into account material support for the Arab steadfastness forces lead by Syria and the Palestinian revolution, is only a way to embarrass Syria against which the aggression is aimed. This material support will give meaning to the concept of rejecting capitulation and surrender and will make available the means for confrontation. Therefore, what is required is a clear definition of attitudes on the challenges and plots facing the Palestinian cause.

The parties concerned with the settlement plot wish to see Syria involved in issues these parties decide on. They want to see Syria in the trap prepared for Syria by the enemy. Syria truly represents steadfastness and bears the responsibility of the struggle against the plots of capitulation. Syria is the rock on which the Palestinian resistance relies and the nucleus on which the Arab masses build to defeat the imperialist-Zionist offensive and to pounce upon the dens of treason and capitulation.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES ROMANIAN PREMIER MANESCU IN DAMASCUS

AU181055Y Bucharest AGERPRES in English 0955 GMT 17 Mar 78 AU

[Text] Damascus (AGERPRES) 17/3/1978--On March 16, Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, received Romanian Prime Minister Manea Manescu on ending his official visit of friendship. Present was 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, prime minister of Syria.

The Syrian head of state was highly appreciative of the good relations of fruitful cooperation between Romania and Syria and expressed his full satisfaction at the upward course of bilateral relations in the last few years.

President Hafiz al-Asad expressed on this occasion, too, the special esteem and valuation he nurtures for Romania's president, Nicolae Ceausescu, to whom he is linked by profound feelings of friendship. Stress was laid on the importance of the economic units built jointly by the two countries.

During the meeting, the Romanian prime minister and the Syrian prime minister spoke about the results of the talks and negotiations they had these days, referred to the working visits, to the main objectives of the Romanian-Syrian cooperation, informing about the measures they established by common agreement for the full carrying into effect, in the best conditions, of the understanding covenanted during the top-level Romanian-Syrian meetings in Bucharest and Damascus.

President Hafiz al-Asad asked that sincere thanks be conveyed to President Nicolae Ceausescu for the visit the Romanian prime minister paid to Syria, for the understandings covenanted between the two sides, meant to lead fresh impetus to bilateral cooperation in industrial and agricultural production and in other domains of activity. Views were exchanged during the talks on some current international aspects, especially on those concerning the Middle East situation.

The Syrian head of state highlighted the identity of his assessments and points of view with those expressed by President Nicolae Ceausescu on the major questions confronting mankind at present, the convergency of opinions on the principles that should underlie a just and durable settlement of the Middle East situation. The Syrian president particularly appreciated the interest taken by Romania's president in the Middle East situation, his just and consistent stand on these questions, as also the fruitful talks he had on numerous occasions with the Romanian head of state on this subject. President Hafiz al-Asad expressed warm thanks for the stand of the Romanian Government on Israel's military actions in the south of Lebanon. Broached were also current questions of security and cooperation in Europe as also other aspects of the international life.

President Hafiz al-Asad entertained the Romanian prime minister to dinner. The meeting and dinner passed in a cordial atmosphere of warm friendship. After dinner, President Hafiz al-Asad received the members of the delegation who accompanied the Romanian prime minister on his official visit of friendship to Syria.

Conclude Cooperation Protocol

JN171541Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Text] A general cooperation protocol on economy, science, culture and trade was signed between Romania and Syria this morning. The protocol was signed for Syria by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi. Manea Manescu, premier of the Socialist Republic of Romania, signed for Romania. Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive results achieved in the economic and technical cooperation spheres during the past 2 years. The protocol includes the bases for economic and technical cooperation for the coming years and the suitable measures to promote the implementation of economic and technical projects. A memorandum on trade was also signed.

The Syrian and Romanian sides voiced their satisfaction with the expanding trade volume and agreed to work in the future to further expand and diversify this trade.

A memorandum on oil cooperation was also signed. This memorandum stipulates the promotion of work at the Baniyas Oil Refinery according to the program laid down for completing and putting it into operation. The memorandum also includes measures to promote work at other industrial establishments and to promote the exchange of experitse and information in the sphere of minerals, particuarly the mining of minerals and raw materials.

A memorandum on cultural, educational, and television and radio exchanges as well as on increasing tourist cooperation was also signed.

After signing the protocol, 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi and Manea Manescu exchanged speeches. 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi stated that the short visit of the Romanian delegation has been highly successful. This leads us to be totally convinced that the relations between our two peoples, the presidents of our two countries and our two governments have a sound and solid basis for future fruitful cooperation as is the case now.

The prime minister further added: Through the discussions we held, our review of joint cooperation projects and our visits to the sites of these projects, we became acquainted with all the suitable conditions needed to promote these cooperation relations for our mutual benefit so as to implement the directives of our two presidents, Hafiz al-Asad and Nicolae Ceausescu. As affirmed by President Hafiz al-Asad, these cooperation relations will become the symbols of cooperation and friendship for us and our future generations.

Talks End; Documents Signed

AU171758Y Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1600 GMT 17 Mar 78 AU

[Text] The official talks between the premier of the Romanian Government, Comrade Manea Manescu, and the head of the Syrian Government, 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, ended in Damascus today. The discussions provide an opportunity to exchange extensive views on developing and expanding Romanian-Syrian relations on the basis of new cooperation ventures in various fields of activity to the mutual advantage of our peoples.

The two premiers signed a protocol on developing economic and technical cooperation and trade exchange between Romania and Syria. They also signed a number of documents on industrial cooperation in the extraction and processing of crude oil, in mining geology and mining, in agriculture, in developing trade exchange and cultural relations, as well as in the field of education, radio-television and tourism. A joint communique was adopted at the end of the visit. Comrade Manea Manescu returned to Bucharest today.

Manescu Statement

JN171723Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Manea Manescu, premier ofthe Socialist Republic of Romania, said before leaving Damascus this morning for home that Romanian public opinion is concerned about the aggressive military acts carried out by the Zionist authorities against Lebanon. These acts have resulted in victimizing innocent civilians and in huge material damage.

Manescu, who was speaking to journalists, said that the Romanian people and government reject these aggressive acts which constitute grave contraventions in international laws and a violation of the territory of an independent country. He said these acts will escalate the conflict in the Middle East and create a barrier in the way of security and peace in the area.

Manescu stressed that Romania still maintains its principled stand toward the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. This stand is based on Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territory occupied in 1967 and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their national independent state.

Manescu described President Hafiz al-Asad as an outstanding political figure for whom the Romanian people and government harbor all appreciation and respect. He said that the Romanian people view President al-Asad as their friend. They especially appreciate President al-Asad's efforts for the progress and prosperity of the friendly Syrian Arab people and for developing close cooperation between the parties and peoples of the two countries.

Manescu praised the results of the talks with Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi. He expressed the conviction that their talks made progress on the road to implementing the resolutions adopted by Presidents al-Asad and Ceausescu. He said that the talks permitted agreements to be concluded that will contribute to continued development in various fields in accordance with the instructions of the two presidents.

Manescu Departs

JN171142Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--Manea Manescu, the prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Madam Manescu and the accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning for Bucharest following a week-long official visit to Syria. They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi and Madam Khulayfawi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya, a number of ministers, the Syrian ambassador in Bucharest, the Romanian ambassador in Damascus and several government officials.

Premier Manea Manescu sent a cable from his plane thanking Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi for the very warm hospitality and successful talks. He emphasized that the ties of cooperation and friendship between the two friendly countries will continue to develop and grow under the guidance of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Nicolae Ceausescu.

Maj Gen Khulayfawi sent a reply cable thanking Mr Manescu for his warm feelings and stressing that the talks they had will further strengthen and develop the ties between the two friendly countries for their common interest under the guidance of the two great Presidents al-Asad and Ceausescu.

SOVIET OFFICIAL SKACHKOV LEAVES DAMASCUS FOR MOSCOW

JN201803Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations of the USSR Council of Ministers, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus en route to Moscow at 1300 today following a visit to Syria. During the visit, a general protocol for economic and technical cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union was signed.

Skachkov participated in Syria's celebrations marking the completion of work on the Euphrates Dam. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Dr George Huraniyah, minister of state for planning affairs; Engineer Subhi Kahhalan, minister of the Euphrates Dam; the planning, Euphrates Dam and economy assistant ministers; senior officials in the ministries and professional establishments; the members of the Syrian side to the Syrian-Soviet Joint Permanent Committee; and the Soviet ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent prior to his departure from Damascus, Skachkov extended thanks to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad for the remarks in his speech at the celebrations marking the completion of work at the Euphrates Dam in which he praised the efforts exerted by the Soviet Union and the Soviet experts to erect this great economic edifice.

Skachkov also praised the results of his visit to Syria. He affirmed the desire of the Soviet Government, in agreement with the Syrian side, to expand economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

BA'TH LEADER RECEIVES HUNGARIAN PARTY DELEGATION

JN211559Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1355 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 21 March--Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, assistant secretary of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has received the delegation of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party led by Jeno Fock, member of the Politburo, which is currently visiting Syria at an invitation from the Ba'th Party National Command. The meeting was attended by the Hungarian ambassador in Damascus.

Comrade Bajbuj welcomed the delegation and exchanged views on the current situation in the Arab area. He said that the current task of the Arab nation is to confront the new Zionist invasion and to struggle against the Zionist-imperialist plans and against capitulation. Bajbuj called for pooling all Arab resources to confront the schemes aimed against the existence and land of the Arab nation.

Bajbuj stressed that Syria's firm and principled stand under the leadership of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic, is to continue the struggle against the imperialist-Zionist schemes, the capitulatory steps and the policy of separate solution. Syria's stand is to continue the struggle to establish an Arab front of steadfastness to stand up in the face of As-Sadat's capitulatory policy, to restore all occupied Arab territory and the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to determine their future and to establish their own independent state on their land. This is the sound road to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Bajbuj explained the aims of the treacherous Zionist aggression against and occupation of southern Lebanon. He said that this aggression confirms the aggressive nature of Zionism and its expansionist policy which endangers peace in the Middle East and in the world.

Comrade Jeno Fock thanked Comrade Bajbuj for his explanation, which further clarified the dimensions of the just struggle waged by the Arab people against Zionism and imperialism. Comrade Fock stressed that the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and the people of the Hungarian People's Republic stand on the side of the Arab people's struggle against Zionism for the sake of liberating the occupied Arab territory and of restoring the national rights of the Palestinian people. The head of the Hungarian delegation denounced the aggressive offensive launched by Israel against southern Lebanon and described it as an expression of the expansionist nature of Zionism.

Delegation Visits Al-Qunaytirah

LD220258Y Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2100 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The MSZMP delegation led by Jeno Fock currently in Syria, visited the town of al-Quanytirah, on the Golan Heights. The Hungarian guests were shown around by leaders of the local Ba'th Party and said that the town has still not been rebuilt successfully since the 1967 war, mainly because the Israeli occupation forces are stationed in the immediate vicinity.

After the visit to al-Qunaytirah, the Hungarian Party delegation met the assistant secretary of the Ba'th Party in Damascus and during the talks they discussed the most recent events in the Middle East.

ALGERIA

IBRAHIM GIVES MESSAGE TO BOUMEDIENE, LEAVES ALGIERS

LD211234Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Hasan Ibrahim, the Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, left Algiers this morning after handing a message to President Boumediene from King Husayn of Jordan.

ASH-SHA'B COMMENTS ON UN RESOLUTION ON LEBANON

LD201038Y Algiers APS in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Algiers, 20 March--Under the headline "To Protect Whose Security?" the national daily newspaper ASH-SHA'B today devotes its editorial to the UN Security Council resolution to send UN forces to Lebanon. It writes: Now that the UN Security Council has decided to turn southern Lebanon into a buffer zone and the last battlefront open to the Palestinian fighters has been sealed by UN forces deployed in Sinai, the Golan and now southern Lebanon, after the Jordan River had provided a natural barrier between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and occupied Palestine, what about the future?

The paper adds: The enemy has been capitalizing on our weakness. Because the world believes only in strength, the Security Council has adopted a serious resolution which strikes at the heart of the Palestinian question.

There is a fact, however, the paper adds, which no resolution, however strongly supported, can obliterate: The UN Security Council resolution provides only a temporary remedy for the consequences and not the causes of a situation; hence all it does is to heap ashes over the smoldering embers, which remain lighted underneath.

Whether the UN forces succeed in performing their task of consolidating security of the northern front of Israel or discover that the will of the Palestinian fighter can penetrate all barriers to reach the enemy at its core, what took place at the Security Council in New York yesterday constitutes a victory for the Lebanese isolationist forces, which have constantly demanded measures to prevent the resistance from staging any actions against Israel by infiltrating across Israel's northern borders. Equally, it constitutes a defeat for the Arab armies, which could have joined in checking the invasion in Lebanon even if this were to lead to a fifth, sixth of even a seventh war, as long as victory is on our side, and victory is the ally of a nation which possesses two sharp weapons that cannot be blunted: depth of geography and population.

We believe, the paper adds, that the dispatch of UN troops to southern Lebanon was agreed upon during the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations as an imperative decision to remove the Palestinian question, the obstacle in the way of a Zionist-American solution, and as a necessary step to rob the Palestinian resistance of all power to influence the course of capitulation.

Thus the Arab nation finds itself face to face with a new challenge which demands actions and not words in support of the Palestinian fighter to enable him to move with all his military gear into the lands of his forefathers to turn it into a cemetery for the invaders and to turn its villages and cities into arenas for fresh operations akin to the martyr Kamal 'Adwan operation.

Concluding, the paper writes: Imperialism, the reactionary forces and their allies the Zionists want to paralyze the fedayeen activity. Then let the hand of these forces be paralyzed and prevented from implementing their horrible scheme by escalating the armed struggle inside occupied Palestine.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI LINKED WITH SOMALI OGADEN WITHDRAWAL

AU2109052 Rome ANSA in English 0845 GMT 21 Mar 78 AU

[Text] Taormina, March 21 (ANSA)--Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reportedly had a hand in Somalia's move to withdraw its troops from the Ogaden, according to Jamahiriyah Foreign Information Chief Hibrahim El Dishai [name as received]. The assertion came during a news conference in this Sicilian city yesterday in conjunction with the press release of the Italian edition of part two of Al-Qadhdhafi's "green book" displaying the Libyan leader's political doctrine.

According to Dishai, Somali President Siad Barre decided to pull his country's troops out of the Ethiopian region and to announce the move publicly during a meeting with Al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli at the beginning of the month. Restating his government's stand on the Horn of Africa, the Libyan spokesman urged a negotiated settlement between the two sides within the realm of the Organization of African Unity [OAU]. By the same token, Libya would like to see the Eritrean question settled peacefully with negotiations between the two sides that led to a settlement that took the right of Eritreans to decide their own destiny into account.

Dishai said that Libya had supported the Eritrean cause for years, when "the secessionist struggle was a progressive battle against the imperialist Selassie regime." "Now we are maintaining contact with both sides and we believe in a negotiated settlement," he added, asserting that the decision between independence and regional autonomy could only come from direct talks.

In a reference to the Middle East conflict, the Libyan spokesman charged that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, "a traitor to the Arab cause," was involved in "an imperialist plot" and deplored the massacres allegedly waged by Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. Dishai added that as things now stand, the only path for solving the Palestine problem was that of armed struggle.

AL-QADHDHAFI ASKS ZIAUL HAQ TO SPARE BHUTTO'S LIFE

LD2014022 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the Great 1 September Revolution, has sent a cable to Pakistani Military Governor Field Marshal Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The following is the text of the cable:

Dear brother Field Marshal Ziaul Haq, the death sentence passed against brother Zulifiqar Bhutto, even if legally permissible, it is--in all frankness--impermissible socially and politically.

Pakistan and its sisters recognize the bold role played by Bhutto for the good of the Pakistani people, both during and after the tribulation of East Pakistan's separation from West Pakistan, and his role in the Islamic world which culminated in the holding of the Islamic summit conference in Lahore in February 1974, particularly as brother Bhutto is still president of the Islamic summit conference.

It was Bhutto who faced the American and other challenges so that Pakistan could obtain nuclear reactors and enter the nuclear age. Furthermore, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto is the leader of the People's Party, which comprises large masses of the Pakistani people of all classes. The execution sentence against brother Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, although it might be permissible legally, is an insult, a political and social insult, to the broad masses who continue to support Bhutto's leadership in the People's Party and to the Islamic world, since Bhutto is still the president of the Islamic summit conference.

Dear brother and friend Field Marshal Ziaul Haq, I address you bearing in mind the responsibility and trust bestowed on you by the officers and men of the valiant Pakistani Army and appeal to you to intercede personally to save the life of brother Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Long live Pakistani-Libyan fraternity!

Long may you live as a brother and a friend!

With very best greetings, [signed] Your brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

JORDANIAN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BENGHAZI

LD192223Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, accompanied by the assistant chief of protocol, arrived in Benghazi this evening. A representative of the Foreign Secretariat was at the airport to welcome the guest.

U.S. DIALOG FORUM COMMITTEE ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD151020Y Tripoli JANA in English 0933 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 15, JANA--The members of the American draft committee of the forum for Arab-American dialog arrived in Tripoli yesterday and were received at the airport by members of the Jamahiriyah's draft committee and some members of the Foreign Liaison Bureau.

A meeting will be held today to prepare for the first forum of Arab-American dialogue to be held next October. The head of the American delegation Mr Richard Shidiak described the dialogue as a first attempt to discuss issues concerning both sides to find a better understanding between America and the Arab world and added that such issues will include the political differences and the need for a better economical relations. Finally he hoped that after the dialog America would be able to understand the problems facing the Arab world and America.

Committee Ends Talks

LD171506Y Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 17, JANA--The preparatory committee for a symposium on American-Arab talks at the popular level wound up its meeting here yesterday. Preliminary arrangements for the symposium due to be held in Tripoli between 9 and 14 October were made, and the political, economic, cultural and information subjects to be dealt with at the symposium were agreed upon. The Arab members of the committee are to extend invitations to the representatives of popular sectors in the Arab world. Moreover, the coordination between the Foreign Liaison Bureau and the General Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress will ensure a national and popular participation on the Arab part.

Issues Statement

LD161628v Tripoli JANA in English 1535 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 16, JANA--A statement was issued by the preparatory committee for the symposium on the Arab-American talks on the popular level to be held in Tripoli.

The statement announced that Zionism had taken the opportunity of the Arab absence from the American arena and remoteness from the American people to spread depravity.. It had also found the opportunity first to distort the Arab people's image in the eye of the American public opinion through its control over the American media, picturing the American society as inimical to the just causes of the Arab nation, and second, to create a barrier preventing any contact between the Arab and American people in order to serve the colonialist and racist interests of Zionism.

The statement stressed that popular movements should overcome all obstacles and run the blockade imposed by Zionist and colonialist institutions so that they could convey their aims to the nations of the world without fanaticism or a sense of inferiority.

Therefore, since the Jamahiriyah is the pioneer of the era of the masses, based on the principles of the Fatah revolution of September and fully confident of its power and determination to over come the obstacles hindering the contact of the Arab people with the other nations of the world regardless of the official policies of the governments of these nations. The Jamahiriyah will spare no effort in contacting all nations either in the West or East in order to build bridges on the popular level based on mutual respect, peace and justice.

The statement added that through the contacts on the popular level which had taken place between the Libyan and American delegations, it was crystal clear that there were great possibilities to establish useful Arab-American relations on the popular level in political, economic and cultural fields, to the benefit of the joint interest of the Arab and American people as well as to that of peace and justice all over the world. Accordingly it has been agreed to hold a symposium on talks on popular level which will be attended by a number of American and Arab eminent persons. At this symposium political, economic, cultural and information issues will be discussed in order to lay down the foundation for Arab-American relations based on mutual respect and joint interests.

The preparatory committee held its first session in Tripoli on 15 and 16 March to organise the symposium due to open in Tripoli next October. "We hold these talks with the American people because our struggle against Zionism and the enemies of the Arab nations is not restricted to one area but should be conducted on all fronts and levels; so that this just struggle will be crowned with the victory of peace based on justice which will achieve freedom to all the people in struggle."

'INTENSIVE' CONTACTS CONDUCTED ON ISRAELI ATTACK

LD181948v Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Foreign Secretariat is continuing its intensive contacts in regard to Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon, which aims at the destruction of the Palestinian revolution and the fraternal Lebanese people. Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki this morning talked by telephone with brother Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Algerian Revolutionary Council and foreign minister.

The Foreign Secretariat also summoned the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member countries to convey Libya's serious concern over the situation in the area and the threat to world peace and security it poses. The ambassadors were also informed of Libya's views on the way to deal with the serious situation resulting from the treacherous Zionist aggression.

During these contacts the Foreign Secretariat stressed two important points: The immediate withdrawal of the Zionist invading forces without any condition and the safeguarding of the Palestinian resistance and its right to be present in southern Lebanon in accordance with the agreements concluded in this regard between the PLO and the Lebanese Government. It also stressed its rejection of the idea of the stationing of UN forces there as this will limit the freedom of the Palestinian people and their right to retrieve their land.

Full coordination is taking place between Libya and the other members of the steadfast front through such contacts. Furthermore, the Libyan ambassadors are holding intense contacts to explain the dimensions of the aggression and the Zionist designs aimed at the destruction of the Palestinian resistance and revolution and making the Lebanese people homeless.

This morning the foreign secretary received Abdelkadar Karnougue, Chadian foreign minister, who is now on a visit to Tripoli.

AFRICAN MINISTERS, OFFICIALS ARRIVE FOR TALKS

Sudanese Vice President Arrives

LD211911Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, first vice president of the Republic of Sudan, arrived at 1445 today in Sabha, heading an official delegation to take part in the meeting to be held in Sabha to discuss the national reconciliation in Chad.

Chad, Libya Begin Talks

LD182000Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] The talks between Libya and Chad began in Tripoli this morning to study ways of cooperation between the two countries in all fields. The Libyan Arab side was headed by the brother the foreign secretary and the Chad side by brother Abdelkader Kamougue, the Chadian foreign minister.

At the start of the session, the brother foreign secretary stressed that the peoples of Chad and Arab Libya are linked by historical, cultural and Islamic relations which nobody can sever. The Chad foreign minister thanked the Libyan people and their leadership.

Minister Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD210928Y Tripoli JANA in English 0900 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Benghazi, March 21, JANA--Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Sept. Revolution received yesterday Mr Abdelkadar Kamougue, foreign minister of Chad, who handed him a written message from President Felix Malloum of Chad.

Chad Delegation Arrives

LD221010Y Tripoli JANA in English 0816 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Sabha, March 21, JANA--An official Chad delegation, headed by the deputy chief of the Chad Supreme Military Council, arrived in Sabha yesterday to attend the meetings of the national reconciliation in Chad, due to be held next Tuesday.

They were met at Sabha airport by the Jamahiriyah secretary of information and culture. In a statement to JANA, the head of the Chad delegation conveyed President Malloum's and his country's best wishes to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and to the Jamahiriyah people. He said that he hoped this meeting in Sabha would be held in a brotherly spirit and would have a positive outcome leading to the longed-for African unity and peace.

Niger Minister Arrives

LD220652Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 0030 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Major Djermakoye, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the Republic of Niger, accompanied by the ambassador of Niger to the Jamahiriyah, this evening arrived in the Jamahiriyah to take part in the meeting which is to be held in Sabhah to discuss the question of national reconciliation in Chad.

Niger Signs Cooperation Agreement

LD191604Y Tripoli JANA in English 1450 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 19th, JANA--As a crowning achievement of the visit of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution, to the Niger last January, a co-operation agreement was signed yesterday between the two countries. Representing the Jamahiriyan side was the ambassador to Niger. The Niger foreign minister signed on behalf of his government.

Ethiopian Minister Arrives

LD191220Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Tripoli, 19 March, JANA--The Ethiopian deputy minister of foreign affairs, Dawit Wolde Giorgis, accompanied by the Ethiopian ambassador to Sudan, arrived in Tripoli last night for a visit lasting several days.

Moro Front Leader Received

LD162119Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki received this morning at the Foreign Secretariat Nur Misuari, leader of the Moro Liberation Front. JANA has learned that they discussed the situation in the southern Philippines and also the implementation of the Tripoli agreement concerning granting Moslems there self-government.

MAURITANIA

PRESIDENT SAYS GULF STATES MAY INVEST FINANCIALLY

LD161530Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Nouakchott--Mauritanian President Mokhtar Ould Daddah returned to Nouakchott on Tuesday evening from Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

He said he was satisfied with the results of the visits he had just made with his counterparts from Mali and Senegal. The Mauritanian president indicated that the gulf states are going to participate in financing several projects in Mauritania.

MOROCCO

ENVOY BRINGS HUSAYN MESSAGE TO KING HASSAN

LD211412Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim arrived in Rabat today carrying a message to King Hassan II from King Husayn of Jordan. At Sale Airport Hasan Ibrahim made a statement expressing pleasure at visiting Morocco and said that the purpose of his visit is to convey a message to King Hassan from King Husayn connected with the current situation in the Arab world and in particular with the recent events in southern Lebanon.

MINISTER OF STATE RETURNS FROM VISIT TO U.S.

LD180030Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] MAP, Rabat, 17 March--The minister of state for foreign affairs, M'hamed Boucetta, returned to Rabat yesterday. In a statement to the press, Mr Boucetta indicated that during his visit to Washington he had presented a message from King Hassan II to President Carter and had had talks with Walter Mondale, vice president of the United States, and Cyrus Vance, American secretary of state, as well as with a number of congressmen.

"These meetings," said Mr Boucetta, "were fruitful." These talks enabled us to set out our positions regarding several international problems, including the situation in our area.

Replying to a question concerning the Israeli aggression perpetrated against (?the south) of Lebanon, Mr Boucetta stated that "this operation constitutes a veritable aggression which we consider to be completely unjustified, a violation of international law and an aggression against a sovereign state, which Lebanon is, and harms its sovereignty. We can only condemn this aggression which is directed against the Palestinian people, who have not stopped fighting for their right to exist."

Commenting on the kidnaping of the president of the Christian Democrats, Aldo Moro, the minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation declared himself "very upset by this kidnaping, which, he said, constitutes a serious escalation in the question of insecurity and terrorism which we have always condemned. "I consider," Mr Boucetta added, "that it is a question of a serious attack on the rights of the person, on liberty and democracy in the world."

SUDAN

NUMAYRI RECEIVES EGYPTIAN, SAUDI AMBASSADORS

LD211950Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President Numayri today received the Saudi ambassador, Shaykh Arab Sayd Hashim, and the Egyptian ambassador, Sa'd Badawi al-Fatatri. Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir was present at the meeting.

"The president discussed with their excellencies the ambassadors the situation in the Arab homeland in light of the recent Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the grave consequences to the security and stability of the region which it could occasion. They also reviewed (?current affairs) and the concerted and unified efforts needed to confront all eventualities.

"The president spelled out to the ambassadors Sudan's views on Arab moves and the role the three countries could perform within the framework of the joint integration uniting them and determining their policies. "Moreover, the Democratic Republic of the Sudan has accepted the invitation of the Arab League secretary general to attend an emergency Arab summit to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon. Sudan has conveyed its approval in this respect to the Arab League secretary general."

SSU POLITBURO TO CONVENE UNDER NUMAYRI 22 MARCH

LD212050Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The Sudanese Socialist Union Central Committee Politburo will convene at 1100 tomorrow under the chairmanship of President Numayri.

COMMITTEES TO COLLECT FOR PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

NC171435Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1339 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 17 March--The Central Committee of the Sudanese Socialist Union has decided to set up national committees at the Sudanese provincial level to collect contributions for the Palestinian revolution, which is resisting the oppressive Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

During the committee's meeting, which lasted until late last night, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri outlined that Sudan has adopted its natural stand by condemning the Israeli aggression through its various media and by stressing Sudan's support for the Palestinian revolution.

The Central Committee approved a proposal by President Numayri to condemn the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

TUNISIA

INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCES LIFTING OF CURFEW

LD201250Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] We have just received the following communique from the Interior Ministry:

Citizens are advised that it has been decided as from midnight tonight, 20 March 1978, to lift the curfew banning the movements of individuals and vehicles in Tunis and its suburbs. The curfew has been in force from midnight to 0400 in accordance with the contents of Presidential Decree No 51-1978, issued on 26 January 1978.

WEIZMAN TELLS GUR TO ORDER CEASE-FIRE IN LEBANON

TA211611Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister Weizman instructed the chief of staff to cease firing throughout the entire front in Lebanon as of 1800 [1600 GMT]. From this moment then, the IDF forces will cease firing. This is reported by the IDF spokesman.

Our correspondent reports that throughout the day the IDF continued combing the area and clearing out the terrorists' nests in southern Lebanon. Several terrorists have been captured and three of their tanks fell into the hands of the IDF.

The defense minister said at noon that the IDF is acting toward returning to their homes the residents of southern Lebanon who had fled during the operation.

NO ISRAELI OBJECTION TO UN FORCE IN LEBANON

TA211727Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The IDF has ceased firing in southern Lebanon. The defense minister instructed the chief of staff to cease-fire at 1800. Officials at the United Nations in New York said that in the wake of the unilateral cease-fire, a vanguard of the UN force will arrive in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Sara Frankel learned that Israel will not object to the entry of the vanguard into the areas controlling the Litani bridges and the Tyre enclave.

The commander of the UN forces, General Siilasvuo, will confer with Defense Minister Weizman tomorrow. He talked with Lebanon's leaders in Beirut today about the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution. General Siilasvuo is checking which elements are to participate in a settlement in southern Lebanon, i.e., whether an agreement between the Israeli and Lebanese governments will do, or whether Syria also will be a party to the settlement. Israel states that any settlement should bring about an end to the presence of terrorists in southern Lebanon and give a local force control over the region.

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS QUIET IN LEBANON AFTER CEASE-FIRE

TA212308Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2300 GMT 21 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The combat front in southern Lebanon has been quiet since the cease-fire that Israel declared 6 hours ago. Our correspondent reports that terrorists are still present in the area.

Defense sources told our correspondent that the instruction to cease firing was aimed at limiting, as far as possible, the harm to the Lebanese civilian population which the IDF is trying to bring back to a normal life style.

On the other hand, an AFP correspondent claimed, in a report from Beirut, that explosions and automatic weapons fire could be heard from time to time in the region of Tyre 3 hours after the cease-fire took effect. As has been said, our correspondent reports that the cease-fire is being maintained.

CEASE-FIRE SAID HOLDING; WEIZMAN MEETS SIILASVUO

TA220917Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Quiet continues in southern Lebanon. Our correspondents report that except for sporadic shots in some regions the cease-fire is being maintained.

The commander of the UN force, Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, conferred with 'Ezer Weizman at the defense minister's office before noon. Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur also took part in the meeting. Our correspondent, Beni Rom, has learned that all issues on the agenda were discussed: the beginning of the patrols of UN soldiers along the Litani and the return of the Lebanese civilians to their villages.

More on Meeting

TA221135Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The defense minister has said that Israel will do everything it can in order to accord technical aid to the UN forces and to enable them to discharge their duties properly and well. Minister Weizman stated this today in a meeting with Gen Ensio Siilasvuo. The defense minister reiterated Israel's readiness to have the residents, who had fled from southern Lebanon, returned to their villages. He also expressed the hope that the terrorists would keep the cease-fire. The meeting was held at the minister's office in Tel Aviv. Also participating were Brigadier Erskine, who will be the commander of the UN forces in southern Lebanon, and the chief of staff.

WEIZMAN MEETS MK'S, ANSWERS POLITICAL, MILITARY QUESTIONS

TA211824Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Mar 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Defense Minister Weizman, who ordered a cease-fire in southern Lebanon as of 1800, met with Knesset members, including the Likud Knesset members, answering their questions about the situation in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent in the Knesset, Razi Barqa'i, reports: [Begin recording]

The defense minister said in the afternoon that Israel had offered Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, the commander of the UN forces in the region, assistance in returning all the battle refugees in southern Lebanon to their villages. Minister Weizman said that we had no intention of hitting Tyre and the Ar-Rashidiyah camp and, therefore, we have closed them off on all sides to prevent the transfer of supplies and reinforcement.

About the scope of the activity and the air bombardments, the defense minister said that we have used the air force to silence sources of fire beyond the Litani. This was an inevitable action from a military point of view.

At today's meeting, criticism was leveled at the manner in which the events in Lebanon were reported to the Knesset. Several Knesset members asked why they were not convened to hear a report. A few of the Knesset members also criticized the scope of the activity. MK Amnon Rubinstein from the Democratic Movement for Change asked whether it was necessary to expand the IDF's area of activity. The defense minister answered: Yes: The firing rendered this inevitable and the villagers asked for this.

In a later meeting with the Likud Knesset faction, a meeting that ended a short while ago, the defense minister said: We will be able to reassess the situation within the next 24 hours and we may convene the government for this.

Weizman added: We proposed that the villagers who had fled return as soon as possible. What's the rush, interjected MK Dov Shilansky. It is the humane aspect of things, Weizman replied. MK Menahem Savidor asked what will happen if the other side does not honor the cease-fire. The minister answered: It depends on the kind of fire directed at us. If it is intolerable, we will react accordingly.

Mr Weizman stressed again that the Syrians have not taken part in the fighting so far and that we have no desire to get them involved in the fighting. MK Ge'ula Kohen asked: Why do we not say no to the UN Security Council resolution? She added that we declared the reunion of Jerusalem, for example, in opposition to what the United Nations said at the time. Weizman answered promptly: The case of Jerusalem does not resemble the case of Ar-Rashidiyah. There is no reason to fight the entire world. Mrs Kohen shouted loudly: Your uncle, the late President Weizman, knew at the time the historic significance of the Litani. The defense minister's reply: It is not from you that I will receive references about Hayyim Weizman.

'Ezer Weizman summed up by saying what may be seen as his viewpoint regarding current events in the region: I think that it is possible and necessary to reach a settlement with Egypt. We should not miss this, and an unnecessary IDF stay in Lebanese territory is not good for nor does it contribute toward such a settlement. [end recording]

Additional Details Reported

TA212007Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Weizman said this evening that Israel did not believe that the UN Security Council would make a decision in such a short time, but that in any case it should be guaranteed that the entry of the UN force into southern Lebanon will be carried out in an orderly manner.

'Ezer Weizman disclosed that Israel had crossed the Litani river only twice in the course of the fighting. This was when ambushes were laid near the seashore. Mr Weizman was speaking with Knesset members of the Likud faction.

GUR TELLS NEW PILOTS ABOUT LEBANON OPERATION

TA220507Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0200 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Yesterday evening, Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur said that the government's decision and the IDF's operations in recent days have changed the infrastructure in southern Lebanon and have created the possibility for a new situation to arise. The chief of staff was speaking at a pilot's graduation parade which took place at one of the air force bases.

The chief of staff also said: We have to be (?aware) of our strength. The State of Israel cannot dictate agreements or conditions but it is able to create conditions for understanding and for a settlement. Gur also said: Today we are at the zenith of the struggle to create a new infrastructure for understanding between us and Lebanon and between the other Arab countries for Lebanon to no longer serve as a base for terrorists. These were the chief of staff's remarks yesterday evening at the conclusion of the pilots' course.

CHRISTIAN COMMANDER PESSIMISTIC ON CEASE-FIRE, UN FORCE

TA220731Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Our reporter Alan Ben-Ami spoke with the commander of Christian forces in Lebanon, Maj Sa'id Haddad, and asked him about the sending of UN troops to the region. [begin recording]

[Haddad] I (?oppose) their forces and I know there is [words indistinct] but not more than that. They will not be able to stop the infiltration and the action of the terrorists. For that I don't trust them. I don't rely too much on them.

[Question] What about the cease-fire that came into force tonight, do you think it is going to hold at all?

[Answer] I don't think so because they declare already that they are not going to stop firing and stop shooting. From your side I am sure that you have an army--this excellent army--and they will applicate it. But from the side of the terrorists I am not sure that they will applicate it. We have already made a cease-fire (?a few hours ago). They did not [words indistinct]. [end recording]

CHRISTIANS WILL NOT PERMIT UN FORCE IN THEIR POSITIONS

TA220938Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Maj Sa'id Haddad, commander of the Christian forces in southern Lebanon, has announced that his soldiers will not allow the UN soldiers tomove into their positions in the area of the Litani River today. He told our correspondent, Yosi Melman, that the UN observers have acted against the Christians in the past, reporting to the terrorists about the moves of the Christians. According to him, the UN soldiers can arrive in the region through Beirut in coordination with the Lebanese Government, or through the terrorist lines north of the Litani.

Major Haddad emphasized that he is Lebanon's representative in the south and that he will not let any [UN] soldier pass. Six UN observers who came from the good fence tried to pass through the village of Al-Qulay'ah this morning but Major Haddad's soldiers blocked their path. These observers do not belong to the joint UN force, but came to replace their colleagues who had been stationed along the Israeli-Lebanese border for a long time.

UN FORCE TO ENTER LEBANON 22 MARCH VIA METULLA

TA212221Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2200 GMT 21 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A few minutes ago our correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reported from the north that the Vanguard UN force will move into southern Lebanon tomorrow at 1000 [0800 GMT] via Metulla. The members of the force will tour the region of the Litani bridges tomorrow.

CHRISTIAN, SHI'ITE COOPERATION SAID TO HAVE FAILED

TA220614Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Representatives of the Christian forces in southern Lebanon have attempted to meet with the heads of the Shi'ite Moslem sect in order to cooperate against the terrorists. Our reporter has learned that the Christian representatives visited a number of Shi'ite villages since the Israeli operation in southern Lebanon and discussed the possibility of establishing joint Christian-Shi'ite armed units that would operate after the Israeli army leaves. A number of Christian soldiers told our reporter that the Shi'ites are unwilling to arm themselves and fight against the terrorists if they return.

SYRIANS HAVE VISUAL LINK WITH IDF IN S. LEBANON

TA211529Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Eytan Haber, 'Imanu'el Elneqave and Yehezq'el Hame'iri]

[Text] A visual link was established between IDF men and Syrian troops stationed in Lebanon when the Syrians deployed soldiers close to the northern bank of the Litani River to reconnoiter from there the area under IDF control.

The Syrian soldiers are deployed in a dense system of observation posts on the hills north of the river. They are seen observing every IDF movement through high-power field glasses. From the Israeli side the Syrians can at times be seen even without field glasses.

It appears that the Syrians are maintaining a high state of alert.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES VANCE-DAYAN TALK 'COOL'

TA211730Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 21 Mar 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman denied today, in reply to a question, that a rather cool talk was held between Foreign Minister Dayan and Secretary of State Vance yesterday. The spokesman made it clear that Vance had arrived at Blair House for a courtesy visit only. There was no substantive talk between Foreign Minister Dayan and Secretary of State Vance. Therefore, the meeting cannot be defined as cool. The Israeli foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state agreed that they will meet again after the meeting with President Carter.

PERES SUGGESTS NO CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT AT PRESENT

TA210706Y Jerusalem POST in English 21 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres said yesterday that as long as Israeli military operation in the north was in progress the Knesset should refrain from criticizing the handling of the terrorist attack on the coastal road and the military action that followed.

Speaking at a meeting of his party's Knesset faction, Peres criticized the initiative taken by the U.S. in the UN Security Council on Sunday--only hours before Prime Minister Menahem Begin's scheduled arrival in the U.S.

The faction adopted a resolution calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon, provided that the Lebanese Government assumed effective control over the area and that the terrorists were kept out.

There was some disagreement between leading party members on theprospect of a UN force in south Lebanon. Chairman Peres reiterated his severe doubts, voiced publicly over the weekend, about the advantages for Israel of such a force.

But Abba Eban recommended that the party not criticize the government over the UN force since it was an inevitable consequence of the IDF action. Eban, moreover, felt the UN force was not necessarily a bad thing for Israel. He pointed out that the UNEF's presence in Gaza between 1957 and 1967 had coincided with a total cessation of terror attacks from there. Israel's complaint in June 1967 had been not against the UN presence, but against its withdrawal at the crucial moment.

In 1974, Eban recalled, Israel fought for UNDOF, on the Golan Heights, to have as full a complement as possible--in the face of Syrian objections--specifically so that it could effectively contain PLO attacks across the heights.

The National Religious Party Knesset faction yesterday announced its wholehearted support of the government's action in Lebanon, which it called "an integral part of the war to the bitter end against the terrorists and the PLO."

DAVAR COMMENTS ON FAULTS IN S. LEBANON OPERATION

TA211527Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Mar 78 p 9 TA

[Arye Arad commentary]

[Excerpts] While these lines are being written, it appears that the affair of the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon is coming to its end and, accordingly, the purpose and nature of that operation should come under a scrutiny.

The offensive began before dawn last Wednesday, and as early as a few hours later the defense minister as well as the chief of staff were facing journalists to inform them that "practically all the objectives have been achieved." They have been restating this from that day to this hour before every available microphone and camera. Since from the beginning they avoided specifying the objectives that the offensive was meant to achieve and since they said that those unspecified objectives had been achieved--we can only try to deduce the objectives at the end of that offensive.

From all that transpires it would seem that the offensive has resulted in the imminent deployment of a UN force consisting of some 3,000 men from sundry armies in a buffer zone including, apparently, most of southern Lebanon. Is this the baby we have been praying for?

With all due respect, it seems to me that some second thoughts would be appropriate.

Even though the cabinet may not be entirely clear in determining the political objectives of such an offensive, the general staff cannot be absolved from setting, at least, a clear military objective. One such goal could have been the breaking of the PLO's back by destroying its operational power--by liquidating its men, equipment and bases; as well as the removal of its capacity to make direct land strikes against settlements in the Galilee. If that indeed was the objective--and thus it would seem from facts garnered in the field--then one should ask not only whether it has been achieved, but also whether it was the most effective and economical method of achieving it. I believe that the answer to both these questions is negative.

The terrorists have, indeed, suffered losses but not in any way approaching a breaking of their back. They knew in advance what was going to happen, and most of them left the area even before the first shot was fired. Those who were left fought fiercely--even though not always well--managing to inflict losses on the IDF. They also proved that, the offensive notwithstanding, they have it in them to shell Galilee settlements, which resulted in the killing of two civilians there by last weekend. It is also a fact that after the chief of staff proclaimed last Wednesday that it was his intention to establish a 6-10 km wide security belt, the forces reached the vicinity of the Litani River proper, two or three times farther than originally planned.

It could be said that such a detailed disclosure of the chief of staff's intentions on the first day of the offensive was surperfluous or, in any case, too early; it can be said that the operation should have been conducted under the cover of a blackout--it is clear, however, that the chief of staff did not foresee what was going to happen, and had to change his plans.

The chief of staff said at the end of the week that one-half of our fallen were killed by mines. This is only one proof of deficient preparation or execution, faults which the supply corps tried to remedy later. [paragraph continues]

It would seem that neither the general staff nor the northern command knew clearly what our men would encounter in the field--and if they knew, they did not make it clear to the forces. They were also less than punctilious in making sure that the soldiers departed well equipped for a protracted stay, beginning with a change of clothing and down to toilet articles, cigarettes and matches. Now, too, the contempt for the enemy continues, as is well demonstrated in reports by correspondents accompanying the forces.

The fact that the soldier and his commander defeated the enemy can change nothing of what was said above. The men in the field and their immediate commanders have won again, just like during the Yom Kippur war.

The general staff, however, should have known, from past experience, the vital importance of speed: achievements that are not accomplished within 24 hours are liable to be raised at the United Nations. At the United Nations the murder victim is, of course, the culprit. Thus, we would would have been well advised not only to act more and talk less, but also to plan in such a way that the desired accomplishment would be achievable despite the existing political coercions with which, as has been earlier stated, the general staff and the cabinet must have been familiar.

INTERNAL UNREST CONTINUES AMONG ARAB POPULATION

West Bank, Gaza Riots

NC180940Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Students in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip rioted this morning. They set car tires on fire and hurled stones at vehicles.

In the Balatah refugee camp in Nabulus, two residents were killed when a military truck ran into a house. The truck hit the house when the driver lost control of the vehicle because of stone throwing. Four other residents were injured. Similar disturbances took place in Ramallah, Al-Birah, Jericho and Bethlehem.

In the Qalandiyah refugee camp, north of Jerusalem, a molotov cocktail was thrown at a border police jeep. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. In this camp stones were also thrown at a tourist bus which was on its way from Ramallah to Jerusalem. One female tourist was injured and admitted to the Hadassa Hospital on Mount Scopus. In Jericho, six rioting students were arrested. In Halhul, north of Hebron, students staged a strike this morning, but no disorders were reported. The Jerusalem police prevented large groups of local students from marching toward the old city.

Students in some Gaza Strip towns rioted and went out to demonstrate. There were disturbances in Gaza, Khan Yunis and Bayt Hanun. Some of the rioters have been detained for questioning. Tempers have calmed down at this time and order has been restored throughout the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent notes that the winter vacation in the schools of the area ended this morning.

Ramallah Bus Burning

TA221020Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A Dan bus was set on fire near the village of Dayr Abu Mash'al in the Ramallah District this morning, our correspondent Arye Gus reports. The bus was on its way to the village early in the morning to pick up workers. When it reached the outskirts of the village, masked persons attacked it, forced the driver out and set the bus on fire.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI RADIO GIVES DETAILS OF VERDICT AGAINST BHUTTO

BK181612Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Mar 78 BK

[Excerpt] The full bench of the Lahore High Court this morning rendered a verdict in the murder case of Mohammad Ahmed Khan. Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and the four others accused were sentenced to death. The four others accused are Main Mohammad Abbas, Rana Ifthikar Ahmed, Arshad Iqbal and Ghulam Mustafa. The convicts have been given 7 days to appeal to the supreme court. A 405-page unanimous verdict was read in the presence of all the accused in the court.

The court also sentenced all five accused to 5 years rigorous imprisonment each under sections 120-B and 115 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The court also sentenced Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Main Mohammad Abbas and Ghulam Mustafa to a further 7 years rigorous imprisonment under sections 307 and 109 of the Pakistan penal code. Arshad Iqbal and Rana Ifthikar Ahmed were given 7-year jail terms under sections 307 and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The court has also said that Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto must pay a fine of 25,000 rupees under section 544 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which could be replaced by a 6-month prison term. The fine is payable to the late Nawab Mohammad Ahmed Khan's heirs. The court has imposed a fine only on Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto because the crime was committed on his orders. If the death sentence is commuted to a jail term, then the jail terms under each section will be served concurrently.

Two of the accused, Mr Masood Mahmud [former director of the federal security forces] and Mr Ghulam Hussain, have been aquitted. They appeared before the court as approvers [witnesses for the prosecution].

The court in its verdict said that the charges against the accused were fully justified. The court also said that it has been proved that the conspiracy hatched to murder Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri did not end with the murder of Mr Mohammad Ahmed Khan, but continued after that, because the goal of murdering Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri had not been achieved.

The court further said that the principal accused [Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto] is the main culprit because he had a special motive. He used federal security force personnel to carry out a personal vendetta and to take revenge on a person he considered his personal enemy. To fulfill his personal ambitions he turned the federal security force personnel into professional criminals and hired killers.

LAW PROVIDES FOR DISMISSAL OF BHUTTO REGIME EMPLOYEES

BK191336Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 19 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Two presidential ordinances have been promulgated providing for the removal from service or reversion imposed or waived without notice of any employee of the government or corporations appointed between the 3d of January 1972 and the 5th of July 1977.

The ordinances--the Civil Servant Amendment Ordinance 1978 and the Corporation Employees Special Power Ordinance 1978--come into effect immediately. The provincial governments have also been advised to issue similar ordinances in respect of employees under their administrative control.

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